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Port TREK 168MHz system was ranked #1 by PCWorld. At the time of ranking, the system was code-named "Micron Mel
ave 5, 7/16/98. *Millennia 400 MAX tested Dec. '98.

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- PC World Magazine, August '98

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The Critics Rave



Millennia 400 MAX
#1 Power Desktop
Dec '98



Millennia 400 MAX
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Dec '98



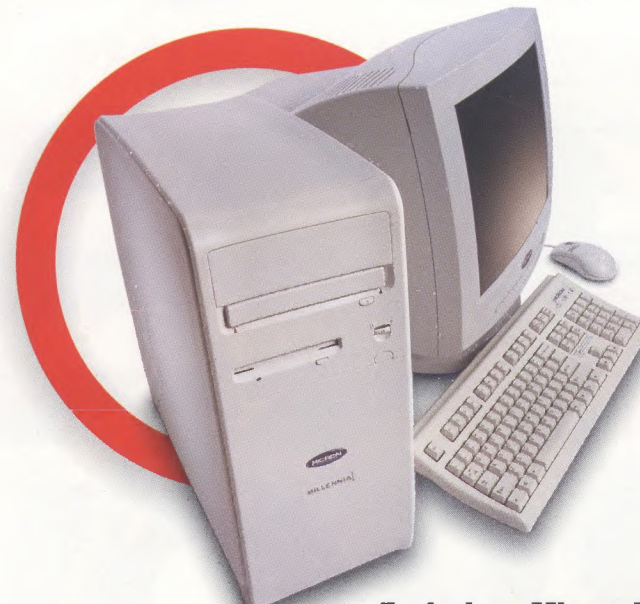
Millennia 450 MAX
Best Buy
Nov '98



Millennia 400 DVD
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Oct '98



Millennia 350
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- 56K 3Com USR modem**
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- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Essentials
- #1 Ranked PC World Power Desktop Editors' Choice†

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A non-refundable up-front freight charge applies for participation in PowerXchange to cover cost of return packaging and processing.

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1
VOL. MP SEC. 04
99.1

Award-Winning Complete Internet-Ready⁺ 450MHz Systems Starting at Just \$1,699



Model Name	Millennia [®] C333	Millennia 350	New! Millennia 450	New! Millennia 450 MAX	New! Millennia 450 MAX
Processor	Intel [®] Celeron [™] processor 333MHz	Intel Pentium [®] II processor 350MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz
Cache	128KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache
RAM	32MB SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM
Hard Drive	4.3GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	13.6GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	14.4GB 7200 RPM Ultra ATA hard drive*
Monitor	15" Micron 700Vx monitor (13.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)
DVD/CD-ROM	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive
Modem	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**
Graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 4MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriX 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriX 2X AGP graphics
Sound System	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound
Warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power [®] limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Additional Storage	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive	3.5" floppy drive 100MB Iomega Zip drive	3.5" floppy drive 100MB Iomega Zip drive
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Price	\$1,199 \$42/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,499 \$53/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,699 \$59/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.** <i>New Low Price!</i>	\$2,499 \$87/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,799 \$98/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.** <i>New Low Price!</i>

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PCWorld, "Best Buy," April '98[†]
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Model Name	GoBook [™] 233	GoBook ² 266	TREK ² 233	TREK ² 266	New! TREK ² 300
Processor	Intel Pentium processor with MMX [™] technology 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 266MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 266MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 300MHz
Cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache
RAM	64MB EDO DRAM	32MB EDO DRAM	32MB EDO DRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	3.2GB hard disk drive*	3.2GB hard disk drive*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard disk drive (removable)*
Monitor	12.1" SVGA display	12.1" SVGA TFT display	12.1" SVGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display
CD-ROM	24X CD-ROM drive	24X modular CD-ROM	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	24X CD-ROM (dedicated bay)	DVD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)
Graphics	2MB/128-bit graphics accelerator	2MB/128-bit graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator
Sound System	16-bit stereo/Wavetable sound	16-bit stereo/Wavetable sound	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone
Warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty
Upgrades	Add SuperBase battery for \$299	Add SuperBase battery for \$299	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199	Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM for \$199
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Price	\$1,799 \$63/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,999 \$70/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$1,799 \$63/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,599 \$91/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,899 \$101/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**

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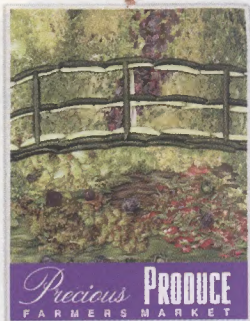
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COVER STORY

The Most Valuable Products of the Year

Looking for the perfect product? *PC Computing's* editors pick the best of the best in every important product category. Plus: the products that will change the way you work forever. **131**

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Free Music

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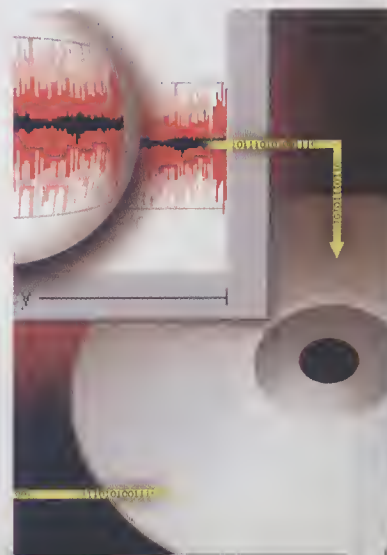
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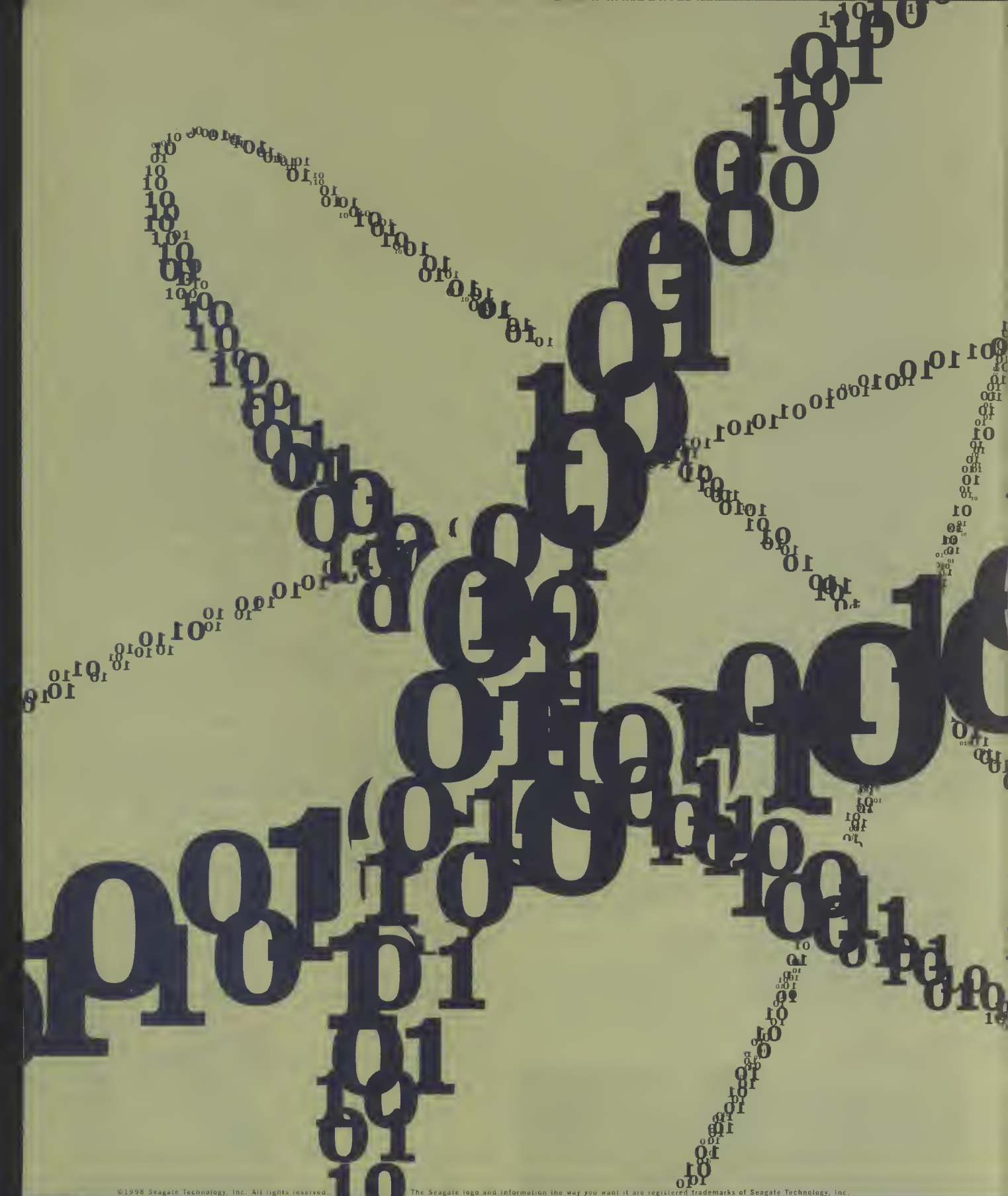
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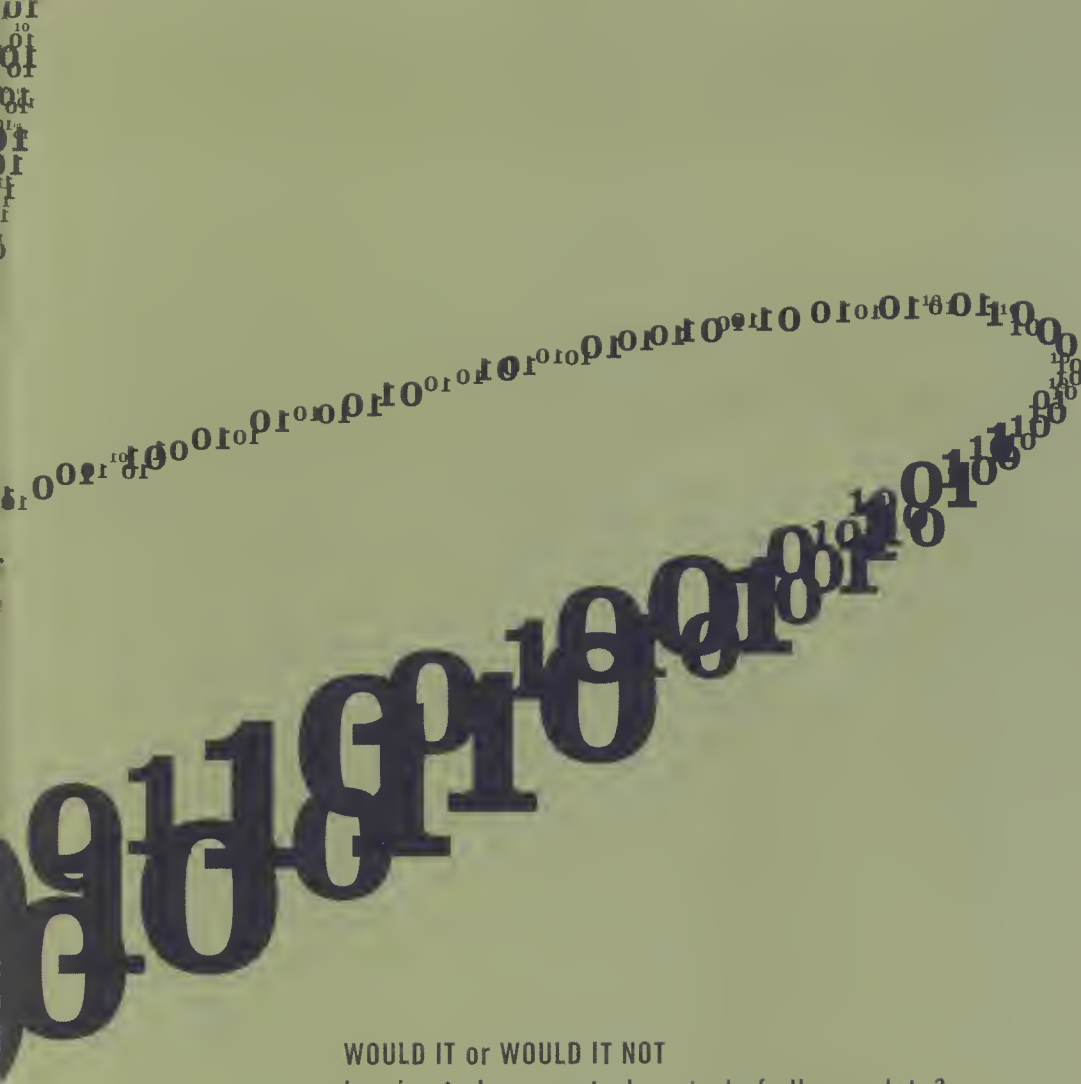
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1. Get e-mail. 2. Send e-mail. 3. Search the Net. 4. Prepare memos. 5. Check appointments and contacts. 6. Set up a new derivative pricing model. 7. Put together a 3D animated short film. 8. Lay out the company newsletter. 9. Analyze data from radio telescopes. 10. Edit digital video. 11. Design a new kitchen. 12. Develop new software. 13. Develop new CD-ROMs. 14. Retouch swimsuit photos. 15. Play photo-realistic 3D video games. 16. Assist with scientific visualization. 17. Play back audio CD. 18. Expedite numerical analysis. 19. Do mail merges for the high school reunion (unless you went to a really small high school). 20. Aid in digital signal processor design. 21. Do database programming. 22. Use lots of floppy disks. 23. File income tax returns. 24. Composite digital video. 25. Author virtual reality. 26. Store a large number of files. 27. Connect to a large number of external storage devices. 28. Play educational CD-ROMs. 29. Conduct virtual reality demonstrations. 30. Balance the checkbook for a Fortune 500 company. 31. Run spreadsheets with decision-making and nested functions. 32. Analyze spreadsheet data by creating pivot tables. 33. Aid in artificial intelligence programming (implementing some version of the sigmoid model). 34. Create organizational flow charts. 35. Build animation for presentations. 36. Replicate and synchronize databases. 37. Do voice analysis. 38. Do audio editing. 39. Create a greeting card. 40. Use smart cards. 41. Help business people practice Japanese with a language CD-ROM. 42. Help ordinary people decipher a prescription using a CD-ROM. 43. Play video clips. 44. Create 250



Introducing the Jornada 820 Handheld PC. • Just 2.6 pounds.

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Rad ar

Technology of Tomorrow

"My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there," said the late engineer and inventor Charles F. Kettering, neatly summing up the *raison d'être* for the ritual of predictions we engage in each new year. Of course, in the technology industry the future is a preoccupation every day of the year—and since even you will spend the rest of your life in the future, here are some important technology trends to watch.

Next Internet Giants
International Data Corporation predicts that 40 percent of Web users will be online buyers by 2002, resulting in \$400 billion of e-commerce transactions. A mainstream e-commerce boom is fast approaching, and companies that provide the plumbing for online transactions will be the big winners. Also watch e-mail delivery companies take off as retailers realize that

e-mail is the Internet's best direct-marketing option.

New Career Path Virtual universities and online continuing-education venues will explode in the next five years as the concept of just-in-time training takes off. Instruct your employees right where they are, right when they need to learn. California Virtual University already offers 1,600 courses and 100 certificate and degree programs backed by such industry heavyweights



as Sun Microsystems, Oracle, and Cisco.

PC Confidant Imagine telling your computer exactly what's on your mind—and having it understand what you say. In the coming decade

natural-language processing will be the next big breakthrough in computing, even more revolutionary than the move from DOS to Windows. Your relationship with otherwise inanimate objects—like

VITAL SIGNS By Beth Wilson

Fallen King of Processors Intel has been the top processor manufacturer for quite some time, but new statistics show a surprising turn of events. In January 1998 Intel processors were in almost 70 percent of desktop PCs sold in the United States. Since then, though, AMD has gained ground steadily and now owns more of the retail market than Intel—a success due in large part to AMD's 350MHz K6-2 CPU. Cyrix, meanwhile, remains third in line with a market share of just under 8 percent. All other manufacturers, including Motorola, hold a mere 5 percent of the market.

Intel Conquered

(percentage of machines sold in retail market)



SOURCE: ZO MARKET INTELLIGENCE, ZO STOREBOARD

Shy Shoppers

(percentage of U.S. population)



SOURCE: INTELLIGENT INFORMATION GROUP, WHITS

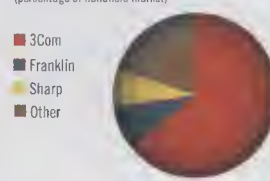
Looking, Not Buying, Online

We're still concerned about Web security, not quite ready for our credit card numbers to venture into the ether. While 32 percent of all Americans now go online, only 6 percent actually make purchases over the Internet. Quite a few of us—19 percent—window-shop online, comparing products and prices before heading out to spend our money in the real world. But most of us would rather play it safe and conduct our transactions in person, over the phone, or via snail mail.

Which Handheld Are You Holding? Why lug around a bulky, weighty laptop—now considered another piece of carry-on baggage—when you can drop a handheld in your pocket? 3Com holds 64 percent of the market with its ubiquitous and intuitive Palm III, which supports accessories galore and continues to snag increased market share even with the advent of Windows CE-based palmtops. Franklin is known best for its tiny Rex handheld, whereas Sharp is noted for its full-featured Mobilon and Zaurus handhelds.

Small Competition

(percentage of handheld market)



SOURCE: ZO MARKET INTELLIGENCE, ZO STOREBOARD

By Jesse Berst

For links and more information on any story mentioned here, go to www.pccomputing.com/radar

PCs, telephones, and TVs—will forever change when machines understand what you say. You're the silent type? Researchers at Toshiba, Microsoft, and elsewhere are building motion processors through which PCs can understand your gestures.

Too Much Data, Too Little Storage IBM scientists are looking into holographic storage, which means saving data in an optical medium—such as a crystal the size of a sugar cube—rather than magnetic media. Advantages include greater storage capacity and quicker data retrieval since information is accessed simultaneously rather than sequentially.

Remember, it wasn't long ago that the PC sitting in front of you right now was just a gleam in someone's eye. I agree with writer Fritz R. S. Dressler: "Predicting the future is easy. It's trying to figure out what's going on now that's hard."

Waiting for Mr. Goodwrench

Microsoft's plan to release a Windows 98 service pack in early '99 isn't nearly as interesting as the PR spin accompanying it. The company continues to deny that users are encountering many problems, despite evidence to the contrary. And Microsoft insists Windows 98 has been well received, that customer satisfaction is high, and that any difficulties have been minor and rare.

The folks in Redmond doth protest too much.

Red Zone Legislation

Doors open on another session of Congress in January and no doubt another barrage of bills trying to protect kids from online smut. The smartest solution? Create an adult domain. Call it the Red Zone. Create a .red suffix. Anything remotely adult in nature—mature themes, full or partial nudity, obscene language—must reside in the .red domain. It protects kids.

New Usenet The successor to the Internet's original, noisy, hard-to-navigate worldwide BBS is a more commercial version that provides links to pages of interest and advertisers.

Web Welcome Mat

Internet companies are dumping millions of dollars into online communities, seeking the magnet that will draw a critical mass and nurture community loyalty.

Recess for Access With shipment of its powerful SQL Server database, Microsoft is gradually moving from the engine underneath Access to a common SQL data store on the desktop.

Voice-Activated Web New Motorola technology links phones and voice-enabled PCs to the Net. In a few years, smart devices will challenge PCs for Internet access.

Log On for Lemons? Don't buy the hype about online grocers. Limited geographic availability, a small target audience, and consumer resistance will slow growth.

It protects free speech. And it protects us from two-faced politicians defining morality for the rest of us.

Jesse Berst is the founder of ZDNet AnchorDesk. To sign up for Jesse's free e-mail newsletter, go to www.pccomputing.com/radar.

"Predicting the future is easy. It's trying to figure out what's going on now that's hard."

REALITY CHECK JESSE'S SPIN

WHAT THEY SAY



"My job is not to compete with Microsoft. It's to lower the value of the operating-system market."

Robert F. Young, chairman and CEO of Linux vendor Red Hat Software, *New York Times*, September 1998

"The dismal turnout for network computing was my mistake. It was a huge marketing gaffe on my part . . ."

Larry Ellison, Oracle CEO, announcing his company's new Internet strategies, *News.com*, October 1998



"One of my biggest concerns about this bill is we will do what we often do, which is pass a bill that won't work."

Congressman Rick White, R-Washington, on legislation to protect kids from sexually explicit materials online, *Interactive Week*, September 1998



WHAT THEY MEAN

But if doing his job means he gives Microsoft some healthy competition, he'll consider that one of the perks.

That won't stop him from doing it again as soon as possible. He who gaffes last, gaffes best.

The only thing worse than going home to campaign as a member of a do-nothing Congress is campaigning as a member of a do-nothing-right Congress.



Trip to Japan

Land of the Rising Sun, sumo, the transistor, and untold gadget worshippers. Feeling spiritual, we snagged an invitation from gadgeteer extraordinaire Sharp to tour its Osaka headquarters and Makuhari R&D facility. Along the way we hit the Japan Electronics Show '98 and cruised Akihabara, Tokyo's red-light-emitting-diode district, lusting after electronic exotica. The findings? Come along, reader-san.

Crystal Power Like many Japanese industrial companies, Sharp makes gear ranging from kitchen appliances to microchips. But its lifeblood is LCD screens, which it first commercialized with a

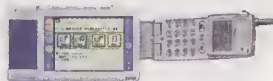


calculator in 1973. The company's core mission

is conceiving products—like PC monitors and TVs, digital cameras, PDAs, and personal videophones—that use, or might someday use, LCDs. Sharp plans to stop selling conventional CRT television sets in Japan by 2005, replacing them with ever-thinner LCD panels like the futuristic LC-150F1, now available in the United States for about \$1,400.

The World Is

Flat Sharp flaunted prototype displays using LCD technologies that will lead to larger, flatter TVs and monitors that shine like, well, crystals. A 42-inch TV employing Plasma Addressed Liquid Crystal technology (gas-plasma instead of transistors activates the pixels) was transcendently bright, as was a rear-projection set using continuous-grain silicon, which embeds microprocessors within the LCD panel itself, giving Sharp notions about creating paper-thin "sheet computers."



PalmPilot Users'

Fantasy The most amazing Sharp product—possibly the most amazing product in the world—is the Pocket Color Zaurus, a touch-screen color PDA that looks like a PalmPilot owner's wish. Its color screen uses a new reflective LCD technology that actually makes the screen easier to see in bright light. The device surfs the Web wirelessly when you slide one of Japan's ubiquitous personal Handyphones into its compact-flash slot. And in the R&D lab, Sharp showed a prototype Zaurus with a camera attached that lets it double as a handheld videophone. The Pocket Color Zaurus sells in Japan for about ¥80,000 (around \$675, as if that mattered—despite featuring technology destined for our next generation of PDAs, it's unlikely to come West).

Future Book One last Sharp note: The company has signed with Palo Alto-based NuvoMedia to produce the hardware for the next generation of the newly introduced Rocket eBook electronic book, whose screen is really its weakness. (Did you know Sharp secretly manufactured Apple's Newton?) Sharp execs said a prototype eBook using its LCD was tested with Japanese comic books, and even the fine-print

Japanese kanji and kana characters were legible.

You Want Tiny? We Got

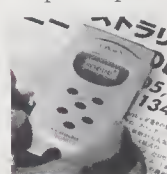
Tiny At the Japan Electronics Show '98 in Osaka, sub-subnotebook PCs, running Windows 98 more often than Windows CE, were rampant. Hitachi's miniature Flora Prios note 210 (2.75 pounds, 6.8 by 9.25 inches) was undersized by Panasonic's waifish Let's note comm/C33 (2.2 pounds, 7.1 by 8.8 inches), which utterly dwarfed Casio's pint-size Cassiopeia Fiva (1.8 pounds, 5.2 by 8.2 inches). None are available in the United States, not even a Sony VAIO portable with a tiny built-in video camera that was smaller than the marvel Sony offers here.



Peripheral Visions

Perhaps you'd like to have a scanner the size of a pack of

cigarettes—and as addictive as nicotine. Casio's half-pound Freedio glides over a page to capture text or accept cards and photos fed into its side. The booty is stored on memory and transferred to a PC via a docking station. An accompanying pocket-size printer produces—no surprise—pocket-size



printouts. (More non-shocking news: not available in America.)

How Many Pockets Do These Folks Have?

Not to be left out of the rapid filling of Japanese pockets, JVC staged a song and dance at its Japan Electronics Show '98 booth to promote its insanely small Mini Video Printer. The GV-HT1 outputs credit card-size color snapshots on glossy or sticker paper from any analog or digital video source, and it has an infrared link to receive JPEG images straight from JVC's digital still camera. In an unexpected twist of international events, this product is available in the United States for \$800.

Edited by Gordon Bass.

Not Yet Epson's proposed Wrist

Data Bank videophone would function like a normal phone—except it's on your wrist and lets you videoconference wirelessly.

Epson conveniently sells all the components (like the 480-by-230-pixel display) needed to build the device, so now it's just up to you—and perhaps a new global communications infrastructure—to make it happen.





**We can custom-build a gift for anyone.
(Not even the folks at the North Pole can claim that.)**

Finally something the entire family can share. (Besides the bathroom.)



Just think: one gift that can make everyone happy. Let us build you a computer with hardware and software customized for every family member: the budget keeper, the gaming fanatic, the Internet surfer, etc. All it takes is a low monthly payment with no money down. And after two years, as your family grows, or just grows up, you have the option to trade your Gateway™ PC in toward the purchase of a new one¹. In the meantime, we'll always be standing by with flexible service and support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online, on-call or by fax. Now the only thing you need to worry about is who gets to use the computer first.



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- 2.5MB 256-Bit Graphics Accelerator
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- Integrated V.90 Modem
- External 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- **Digital Photo Pack** - Epson® Photo PC™ 550 Color Digital Camera, Philips CD-RW **\$419**
- **Family Entertainment** - Kid's Backpack™ Software, Microsoft Action Titles, Thrustmaster® Tap Gun™ USB Joystick **\$239**

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Actually, there is a gift they won't be bored with by New Year's.



This holiday, give your kids a gift that won't end up in the back of the closet. We'll custom-build a Gateway™ PC for children of any age, even as young as preschool, with games and learning software, as well as special hardware like the kidBoard™ Keyboard. And as they get older, you can upgrade your Gateway system to match new interests and offer new challenges. In fact, with the Your:)Ware™ program¹, you have the option of trading your PC in toward the purchase of a new one after two years. Too bad you can't do the same with your kids' clothes.



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- 3.2GB Ultro ATA Hord Drive
- DVD-ROM Drive & MPEG2 Decoder
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
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Internet access provided by gateway.netSM for \$14.95/mo.³

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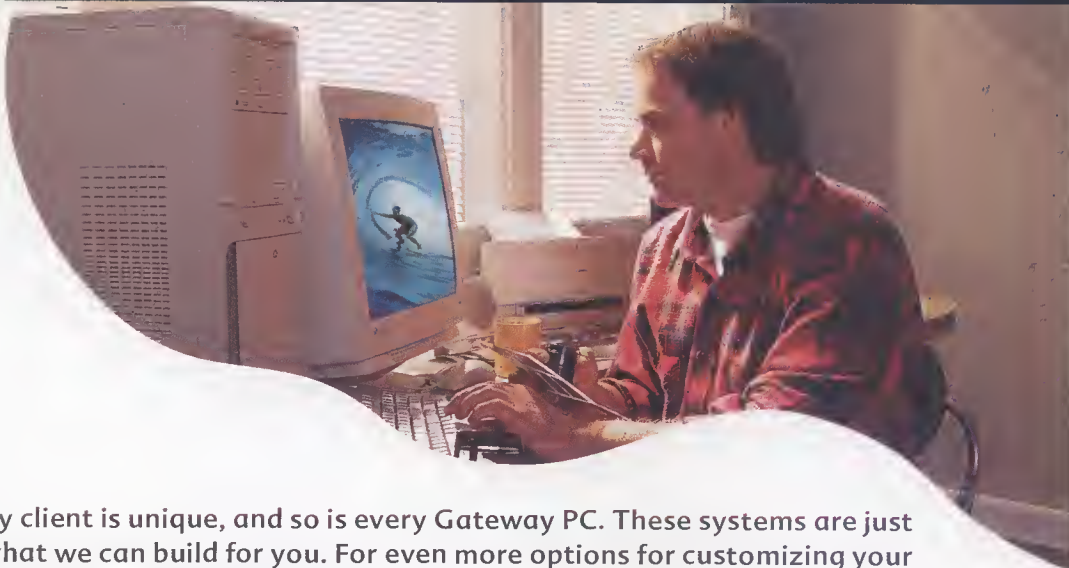


If you know someone (like yourself) who always insists on having the hottest technology, a Gateway™ PC can make the holidays happier. Gateway offers the new Pentium® II Xeon™ processor at 450MHz — the fastest on the market. And thanks to the Your:)Ware™ program¹, you'll always keep up with innovations. You put no money down, make low monthly payments, and then, after two years, you have the option to trade it in toward the purchase of a new (*i.e.*, faster) PC. So put a Gateway computer at the top of your holiday wish list.



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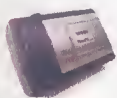
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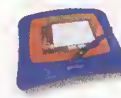
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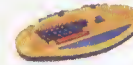
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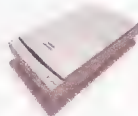


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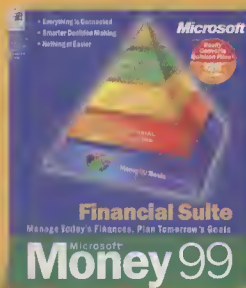


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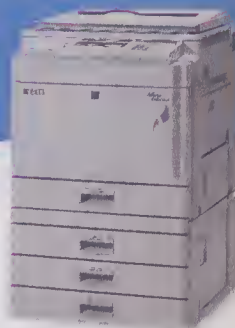
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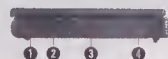
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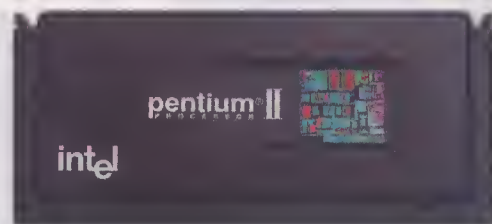


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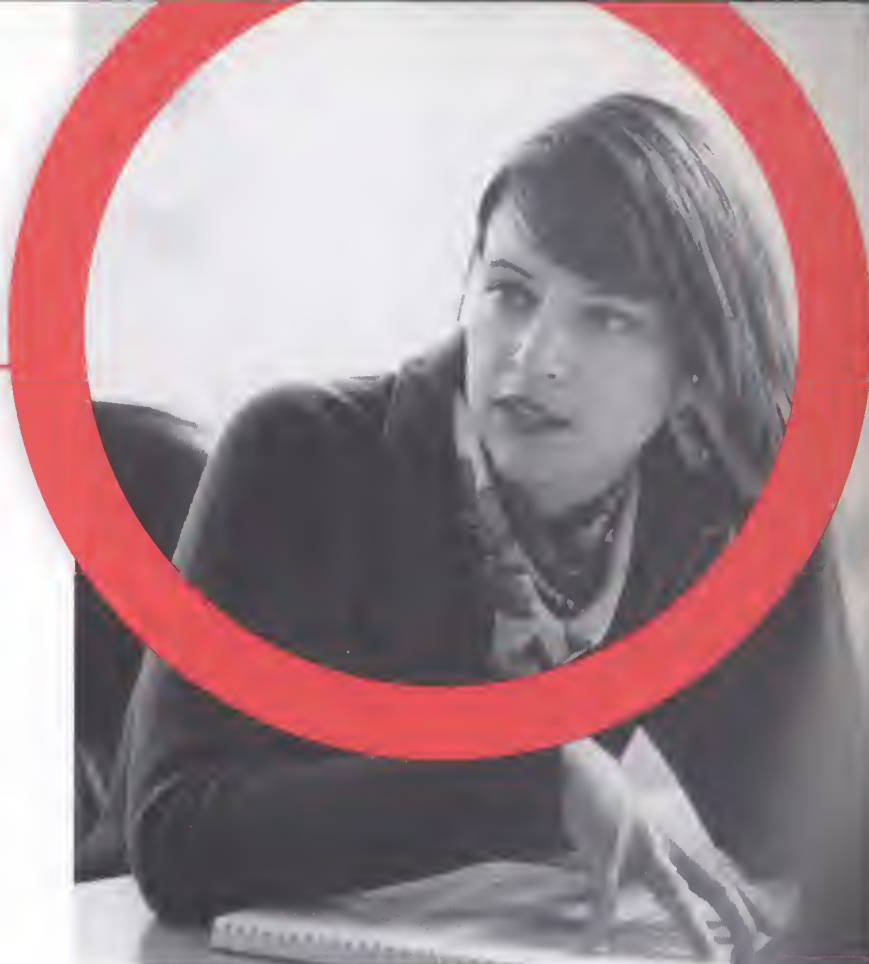
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our gift to you - the
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WE'RE BUILDING POWERFUL USERS.

1. At Micron, we invest in you: Buy any new Micron system and you're automatically enrolled in Micron U. You'll have access to hundreds of free*, online courses, seminars and tutorials on the hottest topics in computing, software and business today. Log in from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's that easy and it's always free of charge.

MICRON U - HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

2. Micron University offers two ways to learn: Either with others in online, instructor-led classes, or on your own, at your own pace, with our self-study tutorials. Both offer comprehensive and flexible ways to become a more powerful PC user and better apply technology to your life.

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Be Smart.

"Micron doesn't seem to think that budget-class buyers should be excluded from the new CPU sweepstakes. So the company is offering its new, sleekly designed Millennium 450 at an impressively low price... I was knocked out by the Millennium 450's performance."

- PC World Magazine, August '98

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"Micron University is a great idea. I have been able to learn things I knew were somewhere on the Web, but couldn't find. It's also available to me whenever I want."

Micron University freshman.

Get Ahead.

The Critics Rave



Millennia 400 MAX
 #1 Power Desktop
 Dec '98



Millennia 400 MAX
 #1 Gaming System
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Millennia 450 MAX
 #1 Power Desktop
 Nov '98



Millennia 400 DVD
 Sep '98
 Oct '98



Millennia 350
 Sep '98
 Oct '98



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Micron™ Millennium® - The Ultimate Desktop.

Just ranked the #1 450MHz desktop by the editors of CNET and the #1 Power Desktop by the editors of PC World Magazine (Millennia 400 DVD • Oct '98, Millennia 450 MAX • Nov '98, Millennia 400 MAX • Dec '98), Micron's Millennium desktop product line continues a long tradition of industry-leading, award-winning performance. Perhaps that's why some of the most prominent power users around rely on Micron. But Micron offers far more than outstanding systems. We provide the new tools necessary to win in today's demanding new economy, the latest of which is called Micron University and it's absolutely free with the purchase of any new Micron System.

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In our continuing effort to build not only powerful systems, but powerful users, we are proud to introduce Micron University. Offering hundreds of free* online, instructor led classes, seminars and self-paced tutorials on the hottest topics in computing and business today, Micron University will turn any Micron owner into a highly educated power user. When you combine this powerful new tool with Micron's revolutionary MPower™ purchase program, offering qualified users no interest¹⁰ or payments for six months and our PowerXchange trade-in options, you get more than a great machine at a great price, you get a deal you probably won't find anywhere else. Call today to order your system or visit our website to find out more about Micron University.

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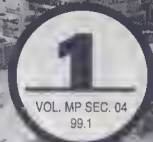
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Award-Winning Complete Internet-Ready† 450MHz Systems Starting at Just \$1,699



Model Name	Millennia C333	Millennia 350	Millennia 450	Millennia 450 MAX	Millennia 450 MAX
Processor	Intel® Celeron® processor 333MHz	Intel Pentium® II processor 350MHz	Intel Pentium® II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium® II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium® II processor 450MHz
Cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache
RAM	32MB SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM
Hard Drive	4.3GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	13.6GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	14.4GB 7200 RPM Ultra ATA hard drive*
Monitor	15" Micron 500Vx monitor (13.8" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)
DVD/CD-ROM	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive	6X DVD III ROM drive
Modem	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**
Graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 4MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriT 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TriT 2X AGP graphics
Sound System	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound
Warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Software Included	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Microsoft Outlook Microsoft Internet Explorer Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Microsoft Outlook Microsoft Internet Explorer Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Microsoft Outlook Microsoft Internet Explorer Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Microsoft Outlook Microsoft Internet Explorer Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Microsoft Outlook Microsoft Internet Explorer Norton AntiVirus
Also Includes:	New MicroTower™ case Advent AV009 stereo speakers 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse® 3.5" floppy drive	New MicroTower case Advent AV009 stereo speakers 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	New MicroTower case Advent AV009 stereo speakers 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	Micron MiniTower case Advent AV009 stereo speakers 100MB Iomega Zip Drive 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	Micron MiniTower case Monsoon MM1000 flat panel speakers w/subwoofer 100MB Iomega Zip Drive 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive

Price	\$1,199	\$1,499	\$1,699	\$2,499	\$2,799
	\$42/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$53/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$59/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$87/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$98/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**
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Price	\$1,475	\$1,912	\$2,211	\$2,787	\$3,114
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When using TREK² on the plane, try not to leugh when the 14.1 inch monitor dwarfs the guy's next to you. It's just not a very nice thing to do.

Pack light — there's nothing worse than a carry-on that leaves divots in your shoulder, which is why the TREK² is as thin as 1.7".

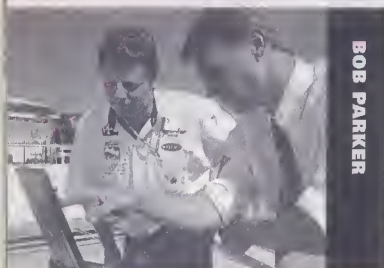
Avoid the isolation induced by the single-use, personal mini-soaps of the hotel room by staying connected with an optional 56K modem.*

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Pediatrician
System: Micron TransPort TREK
Favorite Feature: Brilliant Display
Purpose: Online Medical Research
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\$2,899

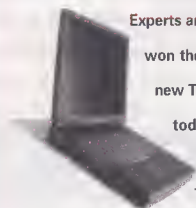
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- 64MB SDRAM
- 3.2GB hard drive (removable)*
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**—PC World, Ranked #1,
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Don't be afraid to hug your notebook. Sometimes, nothing is more comforting to the weary road warrior than 300MHz of mobile desktop-replacing power.

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and those who do not
travel, read only a page.
—William Goins, III



TREK² 233



TREK² 233



TREK² 266



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TREK² 300

Now Featuring
Brilliant 14.1" Display!
DVD-ROM drive!



Model Name	TREK ² 233	TREK ² 233	TREK ² 266	TREK ² 300
Processor	Intel® Pentium® II processor 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 233MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 266MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 300MHz
Cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache	512KB L2 pipeline burst cache
RAM	32MB EDO DRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	3.2GB hard drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard drive (removable)*	3.2GB hard drive (removable)*
Monitor	12.1" SVGA TFT display	13.3" XGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display	14.1" XGA TFT display
Extra Storage	3.5" floppy disk drive (dedicated bay)	3.5" floppy disk drive (dedicated bay)	3.5" floppy disk drive (dedicated bay)	3.5" floppy disk drive (dedicated bay)
DVD/CD-ROM	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	24X CD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)	DVD-ROM drive (dedicated bay)
Graphics	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator	4MB AGP graphics accelerator
Sound System	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone	Built-in stereo speakers & microphone
Warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty	5-year/1-year Micron limited warranty
Scholarship	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online	1-year free* tuition to Micron U online
Software Included	Microsoft® Windows® 98 System Wizard Mobile Client™™™ Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office Small Business Edition System Wizard Mobile Client™™™ Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office Small Business Edition System Wizard Mobile Client™™™ Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office Small Business Edition System Wizard Mobile Client™™™ Norton AntiVirus
Also Includes:	Zoomed Video capable Li-Ion battery (dedicated bay) Microphone, stereo line-in/out jacks Touchpad pointing device CardBus ready S-Video & NTSC out; MPEG compatible Wavetable/3D Positional Sound 2-way fast infrared port 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA slots 2-USB, parallel, serial, VGA, PS/2 ports	Zoomed Video capable Li-Ion battery (dedicated bay) Microphone, stereo line-in/out jacks Touchpad pointing device CardBus ready S-Video & NTSC out; MPEG compatible Wavetable/3D Positional Sound 2-way fast infrared port 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA slots 2-USB, parallel, serial, VGA, PS/2 ports	Zoomed Video capable Li-Ion battery (dedicated bay) Microphone, stereo line-in/out jacks Touchpad pointing device CardBus ready S-Video & NTSC out; MPEG compatible Wavetable/3D Positional Sound 2-way fast infrared port 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA slots 2-USB, parallel, serial, VGA, PS/2 ports	Zoomed Video capable Li-Ion battery (dedicated bay) Microphone, stereo line-in/out jacks Touchpad pointing device CardBus ready S-Video & NTSC out; MPEG compatible Wavetable/3D Positional Sound 2-way fast infrared port 2 Type II/1 Type III PCMCIA slots 2-USB, parallel, serial, VGA, PS/2 ports
Price	\$1,799 \$63/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,299 \$80/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,599 \$91/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**	\$2,899 \$101/mo. TechRefresh Bus. Lease, 36 mos.**

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In our continuing effort to build not only powerful systems, but powerful users, we are proud to introduce Micron University. Offering hundreds of free* online classes, seminars and self-paced tutorials on the hottest topics in computing and business today, Micron University will turn any Micron owner into a highly educated power-user.



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Powerful

Versatile

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"The Micron ClientPro 400 succeeds in providing an optimized LANDesk Management Solution and combines it with top performance at a good price."

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June 30, 1998

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— PC World Best Buy
November 1998



As the industry looks ahead to Microsoft® Windows® 2000 (Built on NT Technologies),

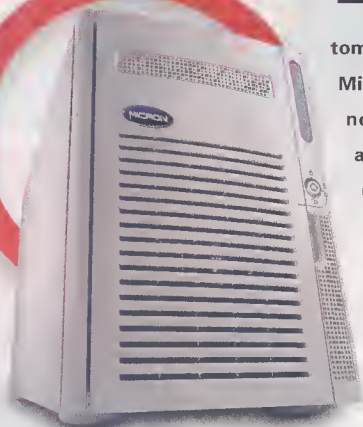
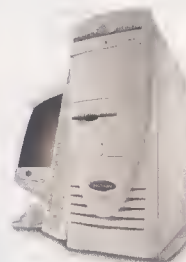
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**"MICRON'S DUAL-PROCESSOR...
SERVER RUNS FULL SPEED AHEAD."**

— PC Computing, A-List Editors' Choice

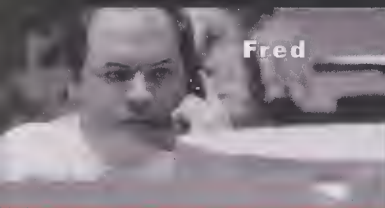


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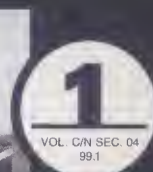
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you're starting to scratch the surface. Let's face it, when you're crawling around under someone's desk in a jungle of twisted cables because they want to see the dancing baby and you're the only one in the office that understands that "hot-swappable hard-drives" aren't something dirty, the last thing you need is a server that's anything but flawless.

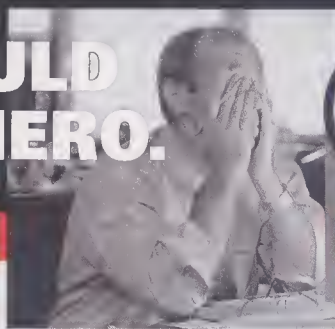


Fred

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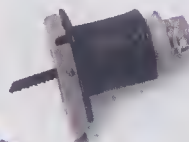
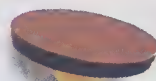
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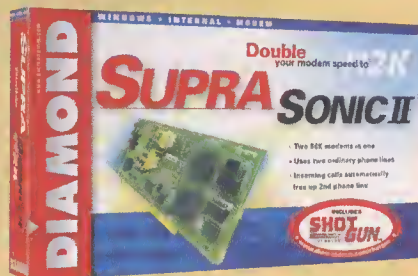
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MP3 DEBATE

Fear and Loathing

Taylor & Jerome's MP3 column offers some good insights ("Ripoff Artists," November, page 85). Relating the movie industry's initial fear of home videos to the music industry's current dread of digital music downloads is especially apt. Corporations that guard existing technologies while crusading against newer ones like MP3 are seriously in the wrong. Complacency finds fertile breeding ground in corporate America; big business has no right to halt progress.

C. J. OLIVIER
VIA THE INTERNET

Running Scared

I was pleased by Taylor & Jerome's fairness to both sides of the contentious MP3 debate ("Ripoff Artists," November). As a struggling, unsigned recording artist, I've found a new audience within the MP3 community. Over 1,200 people have downloaded my songs from MP3.com, and my music is appearing on a compilation CD created by fellow musicians. MP3.com has a sweet deal that will forever change the indie recording scene. This is how it works: If a person likes my music, MP3.com will burn a CD for them and charge only \$5 for it. My band gets \$2.50 for each CD sold, and the service costs us nothing. The major-label bands make only a buck or two on the \$15 CDs sold at the mall. The record companies are trying to blow a smoke screen with this piracy issue. The fact is, they're scared.

DOUG CORNELL
VIA THE INTERNET

Marketing Power

I've legally purchased many CDs by artists I would have never heard of if not for MP3 files ("Ripoff Artists," Taylor & Jerome, November). The marketing value of MP3 will at least offset any piracy losses record companies experience and might even increase legitimate sales. MP3 files are a



self-directed alternative to commercial radio and television. I decide what to listen to—not some radio programming manager who's trying to appeal to the lowest common denominator.

KEVIN VOKE
VIA THE INTERNET

Law and Order

Crazy. Taylor & Jerome, who make their livings by applying their creativity and intelligence to a sellable commodity, advocate broadening the destruction wrought by MP3 song pirates ("Ripoff Artists,"

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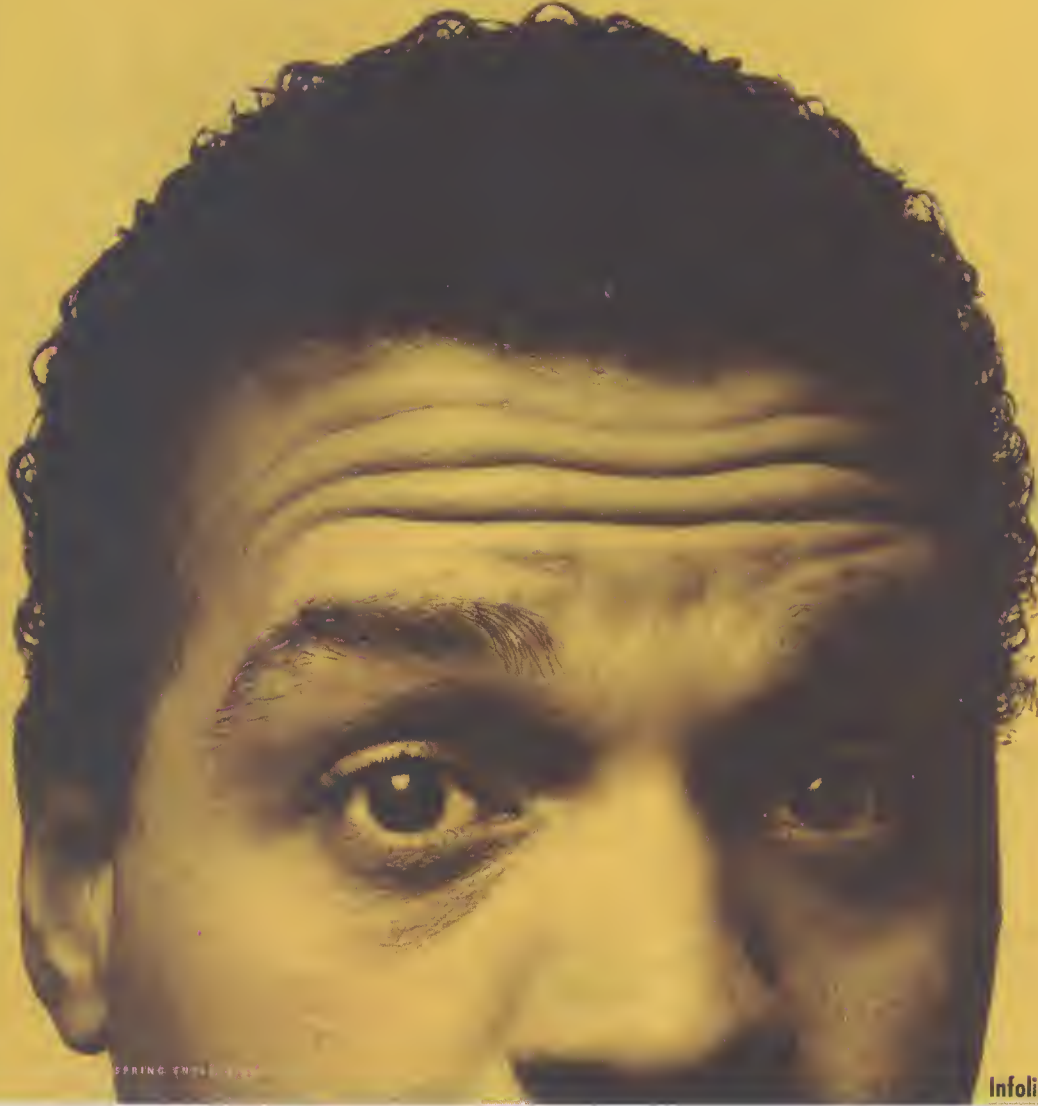
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November). They call this larceny a "freight train" and say the industry should "jump a ride." Should we law-abiding and intellectual-property-respecting citizens just lay down and get flattened by this train because a small minority is stealing someone else's property? What about your magazine? Should I be able to rip out the articles that interest me at the newsstand? MP3 pirates aren't "revolutionary anarchists." They're thieves.

RICHARD CAMPBELL
VIA THE INTERNET

WE AGREE, THEFT IS WRONG. But most people don't want to steal. If the record industry made custom CDs affordable and convenient, bootleg MP3s would evaporate. **T & J**

Fight the Power

In November's "Ripoff Artists," Taylor & Jerome wonder if MP3 music pirates lose sleep at night. Why should they? Has a music executive ever lost sleep over increasing the price of a CD to \$16 or charging \$300 for a ticket to a Rolling Stones concert?

DARRELL L. WEST
VIA THE INTERNET

Hip-hop Hype?

Taylor & Jerome grossly overestimate the MP3 music piracy problem ("Ripoff Artists," November). Remember 8-tracks? The music industry supported them because most didn't have a record function. The industry was fearful of cassette players because they could record tapes. Well, the migration to cassettes didn't hurt the industry despite the fact that using a tape recorder to make copies is extremely easy. MP3 recording isn't difficult, but most Internet users don't know what a browser is let alone how to record digital music. Taylor & Jerome are surrounded by computer heads. In the real world the music stores will continue to do just fine.

DANA BOOTH
VIA THE INTERNET

Chairman of the Board

Let me be the first of many to point out that Frank Sinatra was recorded for *monaural* or *monophonic* playback in the

early days, but most assuredly he never "crooned in monotone" ("Ripoff Artists," Taylor & Jerome, November). Good article otherwise.

DON STARICKA
VIA THE INTERNET

Supporting Voice

Unbelievable. Voice recognition stands poised to change our lives, and John C. Dvorak shrugs it off like a pesky gadfly ("Flatliners," November, page 87). Recognizing the digital pattern of someone's voice can provide improved security. And when the eventual marriage of TV, computers, and the Internet is enacted, voice recognition will banish clunky keyboards and cumbersome mice. Best of all, we'll never have to hunt for our television's remote control again.

LES DABNEY
VIA THE INTERNET

THIS VOICE RECOGNITION stuff all sounds peachy, and it's a shame it doesn't work as advertised. But the fact is that voice recognition barely works unless you call 90 to 95 percent accuracy working. It doesn't cut it until it gets to 99.9 percent. As for improved security, most security problems are not on the machine but on the network where hackers bypass such fences. So what if there is improved security on my individual machine? Nobody uses it but me anyway. I'd say you're living in a dream world with the rest of your assertions. **JCD**

Cyber-Darwinism

It's easy for John C. Dvorak or anybody else to flippantly critique the software industry for any perceived slackening of innovative vigor ("Flatliners," November). The matter is illuminated if one applies to the software industry the notion of punctuated equilibrium that's articulated in evolutionary biology. It states that in complex systems vigorous innovation is usually followed by a period of relative quietude, during which adjustments to infrastructure and support systems consolidate the advances in a manner that enhances survivability. The evolutionary processes of the software industry aren't qualitatively different. Dvorak should quit

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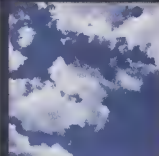
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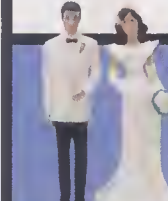


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picking on Microsoft for playing the role of innovation consolidator.

STEVE WELLS
VIA THE INTERNET

Bank Robbery

Great commentary as usual from Paul Somerson ("Dear John," November, page 83). I think the major issue surrounding online banking isn't convenience but cost. I can't find a bank that'll give me a deal for banking online. Sure, an online rollout involves hefty up-front costs, but the banks benefit from reduced staffing and fewer branch offices.

MARK HEPBURN
VIA THE INTERNET

Northern Exposure

Paul Somerson says Internet banking has not reached killer-app stature yet ("Dear John," November). Well, I've been using a free Internet banking service through a major Canadian bank for almost a year. My IBM Internet line was paid for by the bank. The browser, also provided, sports 128-bit encryption. So far I've been paying for everything online, including credit card, utility, pager, and rental bills. The bank also sent me a free full version of Microsoft Money 98, which works seamlessly with my bank account. So don't tell me Internet banking is the *next* killer app. We already have it here in the frozen north, and I'm laughing all the way to the bank I never visit.

JOHN SENGL
VIA THE INTERNET

Prophet of Doom

Is *PC Computing* trying to hasten the demise of unlimited, unmetered Internet access ("Undocumented Internet Secrets," November, page 152)? Keeping a connection alive when you're not using the Internet blocks others from accessing an ISP's limited hardware. If an ISP needs to buy more equipment, it has to raise its rates. When all the small and medium-size ISPs go belly-up, watch how much America Online boosts prices.

RICHARD DASZOWSKI
VIA THE INTERNET

TO MINIMIZE THE LOAD on their hardware, ISPs want to open the

bandwidth for other users when you've been inactive for a certain period of time. Used judiciously, our tips will keep you connected to the Internet when you need to stay on top of urgent e-mail or news without making unlimited access a profit sink for ISPs.

Secret Weapons

"Undocumented Internet Secrets" is incredible (November). The "Boost Your Connection" section (page 164) really caught my eye. The MidPoint Teamer program, which lets you double up on modems and phone lines, is fantastic. My old 56K modem was collecting dust, but now your DU Meter, another great utility, says I'm downloading at 140Kbps. And all this time I thought that 56K modem was just a stepping stone.

JOHN AULL
VIA THE INTERNET

Wrong Number

I enjoyed November's "Undocumented Internet Secrets," but I think there's an error in the "Easy Internet Connection" section (page 162). You say that the latest Windows Dial-up Networking software version is DUN 1.2. It's actually DUN 1.3. Consequently the 4.10.1537 that your readers are told to look for inside the Windows/System folder is also wrong. It should be 4.10.1903.

L. ERIC GALVEZ
VIA THE INTERNET

DUN 1.3 was released after our November issue was printed. Download this version at www.microsoft.com/windows/downloads/contents/communications/dun13win95/default.asp. When you check what version of Rasapi.dll you have, if it's anything other than 4.10.1903, you have the wrong version and should upgrade. **LA**

DO YOU FEEL ANY GUILT ABOUT PIRATING MP3 MUSIC FILES? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 50 Beale St., 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105; or via the Internet, PCCmail@zd.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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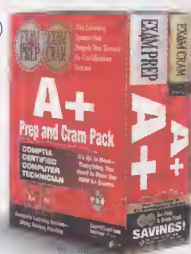
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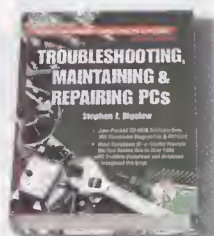
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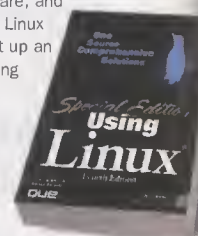
by Jack Tackett, Jr.
and Steven Burnett

The fourth edition of this bestselling series is a one-stop comprehensive reference and tutorial that explains how to install and use Linux productively. Learn how to manage users and groups, set up and use network services, and manage files and directories. Includes the most recent Red Hat, Slackware, and Caldera distributions of Linux and explains how to set up an Internet Web server using Apache. (Que)

Pub. Price: \$39.99

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MCSE: THE CORE EXAMS IN A NUTSHELL

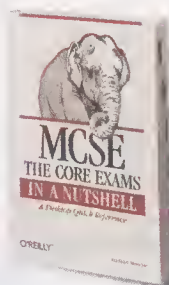
by Michael Moncur

This comprehensive study guide covers all of the required exams for Microsoft's rigorous MCSE testing program. The book includes summaries of key test areas, descriptions of formats and difficulty levels, definitions of key terms, and sample test questions and answers. (O'Reilly)

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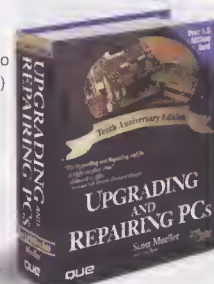
by Scott Mueller with Craig Zacker

The tenth anniversary edition of this bestselling reference is updated and expanded, taking a completely revised, Intel-based approach to PC hardware. Author Scott Mueller has improved coverage of hardware/OS dependencies and diagnostics, has added new chapters on printers and file systems, and has restructured coverage of storage, I/O, and buses, making this resource the most complete reference to current technologies. (Que)

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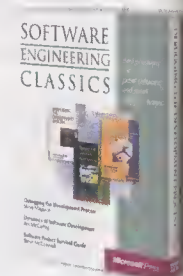
by Steve Maguire, Jim McCarthy
and Steve McConnell

In an exclusive, limited-time offer, Microsoft Press has created a special boxed edition of three bestselling developer classics: *Software Project Survival Guide*, *Dynamics of Software Development*, and *Debugging the Development Process*. These highly acclaimed resources are part of Microsoft's "Best Practices" series which emphasizes practical, process-oriented techniques and timeless tips. (Microsoft Press)

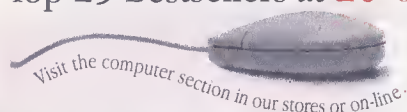
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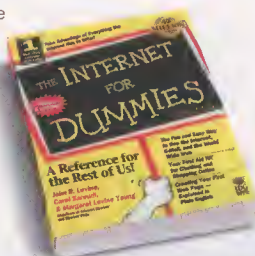
by John R. Levine, Carol Baroudi
and Margaret Levine Young

Widely acclaimed as the reference manual for the Internet, this straightforward guide tells you in plain English how to go online, send e-mail, chat, shop, and browse the World Wide Web. This handy reference includes the latest tools and techniques to make your surfing fun and safe, and even explains how to create your own Web page. (IDG)

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WINDOWS® 98 SECRETS®

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Fully revised to uncover the latest features of Windows 98, Livingston and Straub's internationally acclaimed guide reveals dozens of expert techniques and time-saving shortcuts that will help you unlock the capabilities of Windows 98. The guide also includes a CD-ROM containing more than 200 of the author's top Windows 98 software picks. (IDG)

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THE LITTLE iMAC BOOK

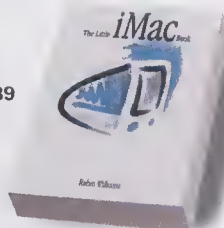
by Robin Williams

Master your iMac with this indispensable, easy-to-understand guide that explains everything you'll need to know, from the basics of starting up and shutting down to the various applications that come with the machine. Award-winning author Robin Williams' friendly tone and simple explanations will keep you on track. (Peachpit Press)

Pub. Price: \$17.99

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WEB PAGES THAT SUCK

by Vincent Flanders
and Michael Willis

This unique, funny and informative book critiques bad Web sites and then applies practical, hands-on common sense to create site make overs. Written by the creators of the popular, award-winning site, "Web Pages That Suck," this down-to-earth guide is as entertaining as it is insightful, and will be useful to Web designers at all levels. (Sybex)

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TEACH YOURSELF HTML 4 IN 24 HOURS, THIRD EDITION

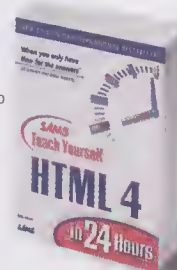
by Dick Oliver

Here is the quickest way for beginners to learn everything they need to know to create their own Web pages in HTML 4. This updated edition covers the latest HTML and Web publishing developments and the new generation of browsers from Microsoft and Netscape. The logical, step-by-step order and novice-oriented approach of this guide makes it an invaluable resource for first-time Web page authors. (Sams)

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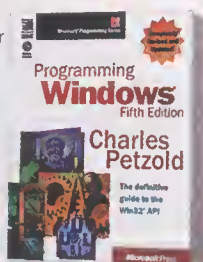
by Charles Petzold

When serious developers have a question about Windows programming, the final word is always "Look it up in Petzold," the most authoritative, example-packed, and thorough reference and tutorial for Windows programmers. This edition has been fully revised for Windows 98 and includes new coverage of the Internet, Unicode, expanded multimedia coverage, and a chapter on inter-process communication. (Microsoft Press)

Pub. Price: \$59.99

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ACCESS® 97 DEVELOPER'S HANDBOOK™, THIRD EDITION

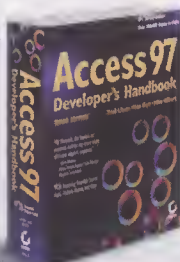
by Paul Litwin, Ken Getz
and Mike Gilbert

Develop high-performance, intuitive, Internet-ready Access 97 applications using the completely updated and revised third edition of this bestselling handbook. Written by internationally recognized Access experts, this authoritative resource shows you how to optimize tables, queries and reports, learn to write your own wizards, create user-friendly applications for multi-user environments, and much more. (Sybex)

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TEACH YOURSELF VISUAL BASIC® 6 IN 24 HOURS

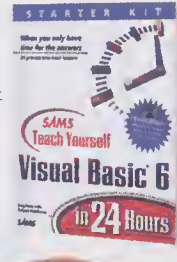
by Greg Perry with Sanjaya Hettihewa

This straightforward guide gives a quick, concise introduction to the Visual Basic programming language. Following the practical, step-by-step approach of the Sams Teach Yourself Series, the book uses task-oriented examples to teach readers the essentials of topics such as creating and using Active X controls, database programming, and Internet programming. (Sams)

Pub. Price: \$19.99

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- Iomega Zip Drive ***99**⁶
- Upgrade to Altec Lansing 3-Piece Speakers ***85**⁶
- 3Com 10/100 TX NIC ***65**⁶
- Upgrade to Microsoft® Windows NT® ***99**⁶



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	Prosignia Desktop 310		Prosignia Desktop 330		
Processor	Intel® Celeron® 300A/66MHz	Intel Celeron 333/66MHz	Intel Pentium® II 350/100MHz	Intel Pentium II 400/100MHz	Intel Pentium II 450/100MHz
Cache	128KB integrated	128KB integrated	512KB L2	512KB L2	512KB L2
Memory	32MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	8.4GB	8.4GB	10GB	13.5GB	16.8GB
CD-/DVD-ROM	40X ¹ Max CD-ROM (optional upgrade to DVD-ROM available on some models)				
Modem	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem ²				
Video Card/Memory	Matrox G100 AGP/4MB	Matrox G100 AGP/4MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB
Total Slots/Bays	6/5	6/5	6/5	6/5	6/5
Compaq Color Monitor ³	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)
Diskette Drive	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB
Ports	ECP Parallel, Keyboard, 2 Serial, 2 USB, Mouse				
Keyboard/Mouse	104-key/Compaq Microsoft® Intellimouse™				
Audio/Speakers	Compaq PremierSound/2-Piece Speakers				
Pre-installed Operating System	Microsoft Windows® 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98
Productivity Suite	Microsoft Office Small Business Edition V2 (Optional Microsoft OfficePro97 available), Training Program for Microsoft Office, Norton AntiVirus, and Carbon Copy Host				
Online Services ⁴	Free ⁵ trial of Compaq Online Services				
Limited Warranty ⁵	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year
New Low Prices ⁶ :	\$1,279 ⁶	\$1,399 ⁶	\$1,599 ⁶	\$1,849 ⁶	\$2,099 ⁶
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- Optional Compaq CarePak: enhanced service and extended warranty available; Prosignia includes 3-year limited warranty



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- 64MB to 96MB Memory ***65^o**
- 24X* Max CD to DVD Drive ***199^o**
- Additional Li-Ion Battery ***129^o**
- Compaq Value Carrying Case ***49^o**



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	Prosignia Notebook 120	Prosignia Notebook 140	Prosignia Notebook 160
Processor	Mobile Intel® Pentium® II 233MHz	Mobile Intel Pentium II 266MHz	Mobile Intel Pentium II 300MHz
L2 Cache	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory Std./Max.	64MB/160MB	64MB/160MB	64MB/160MB
SMART Hard Drive Std.	3.2GB	4GB	6GB
Display	12.1" SVGA CTFT (800 x 600)	13.3" CTFT (1024 x 768)	14.1" CTFT (1024 x 768)
CD-RDM/Diskette Drive	24X* Max/3.5" 1.44MB	24X* Max/3.5" 1.44MB	24X* Max/3.5" 1.44MB
Integrated Modem	Optional	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem ²	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem ²
Battery Type/Life ¹⁰	Li-Ion (up to 5 hours with the second battery installed)		
AC Adapter	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated
MultiBay	Supports one of these integrated components: Iomega Zip Plus, SuperDisk LS-120 Drive, 3.5" 1.44MB diskette drive, second hard drive or second battery		
PC Card Slots	2 Type II or 1 Type III	2 Type II or 1 Type III	2 Type II or 1 Type III
Sound	Compaq PremierSound	Compaq PremierSound	Compaq PremierSound
Pointing Device	Touchpad	Touchpad	Touchpad
One-Touch Internet Access Button	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ports	Enhanced Parallel, Serial, External Monitor, External Keyboard/Pointing Device, Convenience Base, Headphone/Line In, Microphone/Line In, AC Power, RJ11, Infrared, USB		
Intelligent Manageability	Included	Included	Included
Pre-installed Operating System	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98
Productivity Suite	Microsoft Office Small Business Edition V2 (Optional Microsoft Office Pro97 available), Training Program for Microsoft Office, Norton AntiVirus, and Carbon Copy Host		
Online Services ⁴	Free ⁴ trial of Compaq Online Solutions		
Dimensions	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"
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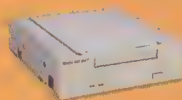
Prosignia servers include:

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- Server Management Tools: Compaq Insight Manager and Automatic Server Recovery
- Optional Compaq CarePak Service and Support



Consider these options:

- 64MB SDRAM Memory Kit ***414⁵**
- SMART 2SL Array Controller ***795⁵**
- Additional 9.1GB Wide-Ultra SCSI-3 Hard Drive ***795⁵**
- 4/8GB DAT Tape Drive ***725⁵**
- Netelligent 56K[®] ISA Fax Modem ***125⁵**



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Choose one of these recommended configurations. Or customize a Prosignia to meet your specific needs.

	Prosignia Server 720	Prosignia Server 740	Prosignia Server 740
Processor	Intel [®] Pentium [®] II 400MHz	Intel Pentium II 400MHz	Intel Pentium II 450MHz
Dual Processor Support	No	Yes	Yes
L2 Cache	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory Std./Max.	64MB/384MB ECC SDRAM	64MB/1GB ECC SDRAM	128MB/1GB ECC SDRAM
SCSI Hard Drive	4.3GB	9.1GB	Two 9.1GB Drives (18.2GB Total)
Hard Disk Controller	Wide Ultra2 SCSI	Integrated Wide-Ultra SCSI-3	Integrated Wide-Ultra SCSI-3
Expansion Bays	5 Total: 3 Removable, 2 Hard Drive	8 Total: 4 Removable, 4 Hard Drive	8 Total: 4 Removable, 4 Hard Drive
Max Internal Storage	27.3GB	54.6GB	54.6GB
CD-RDM	32X ¹¹ Max	32X ¹¹ Max	32X ¹¹ Max
Diskette Drive	3.5" 1.44 MB	3.5" 1.44 MB	3.5" 1.44 MB
Total Expansion Slots	6 (3 PCI, 1 PCI/ISA, 1 ISA, 1 AGP)	6 (2 PCI, 4 PCI/ISA)	6 (2 PCI, 4 PCI/ISA)
Network Interface Controller	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP
Redundant NIC Support	No	Yes	Yes
Software Setup	SmartStart	SmartStart	SmartStart
Server Management	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery-2, Integrated Remote Console	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery-2, Integrated Remote Console
Power Supply	200W	325W	325W
Compaq Monitor ³	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)
Worldwide Limited Warranty ⁴	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year
Pre-Failure Warranty ¹²	Processor, Hard Drive	Processor, Memory, Hard Drive	Processor, Memory, Hard Drive
New Low Prices ² :	\$2,449⁶	\$3,139⁶	\$4,699⁶
Lease Prices ⁷ :	\$83/mo.	\$106/mo.	\$159/mo.

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- Detailed tracking and delivery confirmation

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- Fast access to user tips on Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Word 97, Windows NT Workstation 4.0, and other training programs

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⁴**40X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates may vary from 150KB/s to 600KB/s. ⁵**56K Protocol:** Designed to allow faster downloads from 56K-compliant digital sources. Maximum achievable download transmission rates currently do not reach 56Kbps and will vary with line conditions. Your modem may only download at the current V.34 standard protocol rates (up to 33.6K) until V.90 ITU standard software upgrade is available. ⁶**Monitor included in price.** **Compaq Online Services:** Free trial requires Internet access capability. **Limited Warranty:** Ask for a copy of the limited warranty for any product featured in this catalog or call for details. Certain restrictions and exclusions apply. All warranty periods represent time from initial purchase. Battery packs and certain options are covered by a one-year limited warranty. Standard coverage includes: Compaq Prosignia Desktops 3 years parts, 1st year on-site labor. Warranty service for parts years 2 and 3 is provided via carry-in service. Compaq Prosignia Notebooks 3 years parts and 1 year labor; 48-hour turnaround on mail-in depot repair. If your notebook requires repair while under 1st year of warranty, Compaq will supply packaging, pick up the PC at your location, repair it, and return it to you. For pick-up service, call Compaq Tech Support Center. Warranty service for parts after 1st year is provided via carry-in or mail-in. For carry-in service you may bring the PC in to any authorized Compaq Service Provider. Compaq monitors \$700 and \$900 — 3 years parts with the 1st year on-site labor. V55 — 1 year on-site labor which covers parts and labor. Compaq 48-Hour Monitor Swap — If your Compaq \$700 or \$900 monitor needs servicing within the warranty period, you can get a replacement monitor from Compaq within 48 hours of your service call, however pick-up service is not available. Call 1-800-OK COMPAQ if you have a monitor problem. ⁷**All prices shown are DirectPlus prices and are subject to change, and do not include applicable state and local sales tax or shipping charges.** **Leasing:** Leasing available through Compaq Capital Corporation (CCC) to qualified commercial customers in the United States, subject to credit approval and execution of CCC lease documentation. Monthly lease payments are based on 36-month fair market value lease, and do not include taxes, fees, or shipping charges. Offering subject to other restrictions and CCC reserves the right to change, alter, or cancel at any time without notice. ⁸**Offer valid in U.S. only to end users. Expires 4/30/99. Limit one per customer and may not be combined with any other offer. Bundle and hardware must be leased at the same time. Proof of purchase must be submitted with rebate coupon. Invoice must show lease of product and Premier Online Services Bundle, date, Compaq hardware serial number, and end user customer name and address. Multiple addresses and P.O. boxes are prohibited. For complete rules, see rebate coupon that comes with lease paperwork.** ⁹**24X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates range from 150KB/s to 360KB/s. ¹⁰**Battery Life:** Actual results may vary with individual usage. When tested in standard configuration, using the Ziff-Davis Battery Mark Test version 2.0, the battery life of the Prosignia Notebook will range up to 2.5 hours, standard configuration at the time of announcement is considered to be one battery, 1024 x 768 (16-bit color) panel set at 50% brightness, 32MB RAM, and no drives active other than the hard drive. ¹¹**32X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates vary from 150KB/s to 480KB/s. ¹²**For hard drives, GB=billion bytes.** **Compaq Server Pre-Failure Warranty:** Pre-Failure Warranty is available on all Compaq Prosignia servers using Compaq Insight Manager 2.1 or higher, also covers ECC memory, and server hard drives (except the 535MB Fast-SCSI-2 hard drives) using Compaq IOA, IOA-2, Compaq SMART SCSI Array Controllers, Compaq SMART-2 SCSI Array Controllers, or SMART Array 3100ES Controllers. Products, specifications, and prices are subject to change. Compaq is not liable for pictorial or typographical errors in this catalog. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, Prosignia, Compaq Insight Manager, and SmartStart are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. DirectPlus is a registered service mark of Compaq Computer Corporation. MultiBay and PremierSound are trademarks of Compaq Computer Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, and Windows NT are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, Pentium, and Celeron are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. Other product names mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © 1998 Compaq Computer Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S. Doc. No. NA134/109B

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1998 Vision Master 450



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VisionMaster 502 (19.5" VIS)	TCO '95	0.27mm/dp	110khz	1800 x 1440@74hz	\$999
VisionMaster 501 (19.5" VIS)	TCO '95	0.27mm/dp	96khz	1600 x 1200@75hz	\$939
19" VisionMaster Pro 450 (18.0" VIS)	TCO '95	0.25mm/AG	102khz	1600 x 1200@80hz	\$699
VisionMaster 450 (18.0" VIS)	TCO '95	0.26mm/dp	102khz	1600 x 1200@80hz	\$599
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VisionMaster 400 (16.0" VIS)	TCO '95	0.26mm/dp	96khz	1600 x 1200@75hz	\$438
\$702BT (16.0" VIS)	TCO '95	0.28mm/dp	96khz	1280 x 1024@85hz	\$369
15" VisionMaster 350 (13.7" VIS)	MPR-II	0.28mm/dp	69khz	1280 x 1024@65hz	\$219



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January 1998
VisionMaster Pro 500



Perfect Five-Star Rating
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VisionMaster Pro 17



January 6, 1998
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VisionMaster Pro 21



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October 7, 1997
VisionMaster Pro 17
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VisionMaster Pro 502



Twelve Time Winner
July 1996, Jan 1997, March 1997, July 1997,
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VisionMaster Pro 17
April 1998, August 1998
VisionMaster 450

Infolink 129 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Breakthrough

Your mailman is your enemy. All he brings is bad news. Friends and family who once wrote letters in longhand now send e-mail instead. The only things inside your mailbox these days are magazines, weird doily catalogs still addressed to the old biddy who lived there before you, bills, and paper spam. Plus the occasional heartache from your friendly government. Draft notices terrorized many of us years ago. And love notes from the IRS are no picnic, ever. But the worst is clearly jury duty.

If you've never been shanghaied into this, it may sound interesting—you get to spring people accused of victimless crimes, and exercise all your twisted prejudices by sending scumbags up the river. Wrong. Truth is, it's like sitting for days on a crowded plane going nowhere. Or being stuck in the tuberculosis ward on Ellis Island, surrounded by shadowy types whose names seem to have been created by dumping Scrabble tiles on the floor, and whose strange attempts at English sound vaguely like a clutch slipping.

But there is one jury we were proud to be a part of. At *PC Computing*, we recently assembled a panel of top editors, lab testers, and technology experts, to identify the few products on the market that were genuine breakthroughs.

Too many products today are commodities, cookie-cutter versions of each other. They use the same interchangeable parts, run at similar speeds, and suffer from identical usability flaws. Differences are mostly cosmetic.

Some, however, manage to break out of the pack through innovative engineering or design, and offer a glimpse of how we'll all be working in the future. We honored the 10 top breakthrough products at our annual MVP Awards ceremony at Fall Comdex.

The first breakthrough award went to **eBay**, the world's biggest flea market and antiques store. One of the primary e-commerce roles is digital middleman—putting together buyers



Paul Somerson

I was surrounded by shadowy types with names created by dumping **Scrabble** tiles on the floor.

in Seattle with sellers in Tampa—and eBay is the best matchmaker around. Its infrastructure can be a real mess, but presumably it'll be straightened out now that the stock is flying high.

And since someday you'll want to set up shop yourself on the Web, you won't find a better place than the **Yahoo Store**, which makes an otherwise harrowing process painless.

In this full-color Internet world, we all want full-color printouts. **Epson's Stylus Color 850** printer leads the way into the next millennium, with incredible quality at an incredible price.

Franklin's tiny Rex Pro PC Card Organizer knocked our socks off the first time we saw it, and it's gotten even better. We'll all be carrying around one of these a year or two from now, guaranteed.

There are plenty of great digital cameras out there. But **Eastman Kodak's DC260 Zoom Camera** gets our breakthrough vote first for producing such a gem, and second for showing how an old-line analog company can reinvent itself in the digital age.

There are several crack voice-recognition products out there too. We've been fans of Dragon Systems and IBM for years, but **Lernout & Hauspie's** super-accurate **Voice Xpress Professional** gets the nod here as the input device of the future.

NEC's Multisync LCD is a real dazzler, but **Silicon Graphics' huge Digital Flat Panel** is both eye-popping and affordable. We'll all be using these big displays soon. Just watch.

The future is clearly video, which has traditionally been balky and pricey. **Matrox Graphics' Marvel G200-TV** makes video capture and editing a snap, and throws in so many other goodies that resistance is truly futile.

Powerful, do-it-yourself telephony is also ahead for all of us. With Centrepont's **Concero Switchboard** you plug in your phones, faxes, PCs, and presto! A powerful PBX. Who needs Ma Bell?

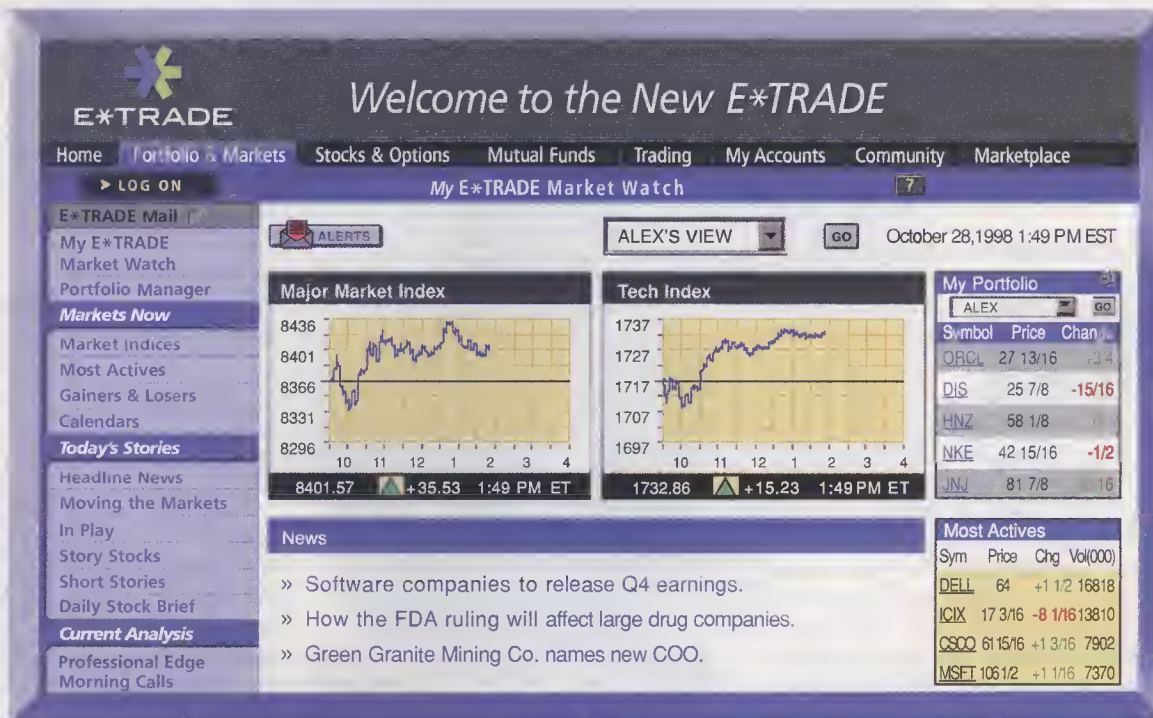
And in mapping the future, you'll never be lost with **TravRoute's Door-to-Door Copilot**, a navigation system that plugs into your notebook.

These 10 terrific breakthrough products really will change the way we all work and live. We can't wait.

E-mail somerson@zd.com

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Backdoor Fortune

Moe's MasterCard offers free monogrammed luggage. Curly's Visa gives away frequent-flier miles. And you get a coffeemaker when you open an account at Larry's Savings & Loan.

Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk: Welcome to the sophisticated world of consumer finance. Imagine the kitsch, lame gags, and come-ons that define today's financial institutions suddenly going away. In their place, someone actually offers you new, useful

services. It's a stretch, but there's got to be some imagination in banking.

Plastic Pays We'd pile our poker chips on NextCard, which bills itself as the first true Internet Visa card. Yawn, right? It's not as if the world needs another Visa card. Yet this one is different. What's more, it may be a backdoor way to make online banking go.

Let us explain. NextCard's Visa works just like Curly's: Rack up charges, pay them off every month, or get zapped with finance charges—prime rate plus 9.9 percent. Yowza! Those fees fatten NextCard's profit pig.

So what makes this Visa special? When you log on to the company's site (www.nextcard.com) to request a card, you're either approved or turned down—instantly. You don't wait weeks for the credit hounds to scour through your financial underwear. Once you're approved, NextCard flashes up the balances on your other credit cards—again, instantly—without even asking you for the card numbers.

With a few keystrokes, you can transfer those balances to your new NextCard at a very reasonable 2.9 percent interest rate. The company snatches you out of Curly's clutches.

And you've got every good reason to stay out of Curly's clutches. Not only is your credit check performed in real time, but you conduct all your business with NextCard on its Web site: reviewing statements, checking and transferring balances, upgrading the card, reporting it lost, and contesting charges. There's no wading through a voice-mail system, no waiting weeks for a stubborn accounting department to assemble a



This Visa card is different. And it may turn out to be a backdoor way to make online banking go.

paper trail, no long conversations with customer reps who have low IQs and harsh Southern twangs.

Big deal, you say. NextCard's convenience gives it a little edge, but it won't exactly terrorize Chase Manhattan. Ah, but look closer: The company's business model is breathtakingly efficient. There are no branch offices to eat into profits. Its payroll is a fraction of Curly's (or Chase Manhattan's). So is its overhead. In this sense, it enjoys the same

advantages that launched Amazon.com, CDnow, and eBay, among others.

But it also has marketing muscle. With its direct connections to credit databases and cardholders' addresses, it can slice and dice customer profiles on the fly. When cardholders come to check their balances, they're greeted with shopping opportunities eagerly awaiting their cards. There's an explicit 100 percent money-back guarantee to encourage Internet-shy shoppers to take the plunge.

All this is just window dressing to NextCard's biggest ambition: Internet banking. Internet banks—those that exist solely on the Web—may not have surly tellers or vaults for your pearls, but they enjoy the same efficiencies that any cyberbusiness enjoys. And there are plenty of Internet banks out there: Net.B@nk (www.netbank.com) and Security First Network Bank (www.sfnb.com) are just two. All have attracted tire kickers (SFNB claims to have 12,000 depositors).

No Stooges But none is making Chase Manhattan quake. Why? How do customers deposit their hard-earned cabbage? The schemes are complicated, which is why depositors are few. With no deposits, Web banks have no money to lend. Lending is how banks make their profits. You know this already.

NextCard is adding customers to the tune of \$600,000 to \$700,000 in credit card transfers every day. These customers will pay interest on these transfers, money that NextCard will eventually be able to lend. Meanwhile, the company is building the infrastructure for what could be a bank to make Chase Manhattan look like Larry's Savings & Loan.

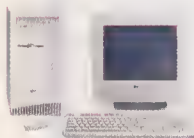
In other words, NextCard is inventing the closest thing we have to e-cash. It's a lion that's ready to roar.

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Your New Desktop

Think inexpensive flat-panel displays will make a lot more room for other items? Especially if you're using a Goliath 21-inch monitor that takes up a third of your desktop now? Get ready. In the near future you'll have an assortment of flat panels on your desk, not just one. During a recent trip to IBM's Almaden Research Center I saw an experimental work environment that seemed too weird to be useful. But that impression lasted

only about five seconds.

The idea is that a single focal point like the monitor we use today is counter to the way we work naturally. We're used to putting things all over the place. There is a hanging calendar, a bookshelf, a whiteboard, sticky notes, and so on. When it comes to the computer, however, we cram all those elements into one small window. At most the monitor is 21 inches in diameter. How some people endure smaller monitors is beyond me. I've made a theme out of getting people to think in terms of larger monitors. Now, apparently the IBM researchers have gone beyond thinking in terms of monitor size altogether.

Mission Control In this workplace there are numerous monitors (flat panel being the preferred device du jour) combined with an LCD projector that displays the master desktop on the wall. You use the large master desktop to load the smaller displays with whatever you are working on. You may have a word processing document on one display while another is browsing the Web. Maybe a third display shows a reference chart with facts you need to incorporate into the word processing document—or whatever! Once you get into this environment it is far more natural and comfortable than anything you've ever experienced.

With operating systems such as Windows to do everything on a single monitor, no matter how big, it's still a chore to keep track of windows you have to pop in and out of. People are desperate for more screen real estate. A Nokia executive



John C. Dvorak

**Desperate for
more screen real estate?
Three flat panels give
you a unique
sense of control.**

told me how last year the demand for 21-inch monitors skyrocketed to such an extent that the company had to air ship them from Finland to meet the demand.

The next logical step was more screens, since larger screens are impractical. Then Windows 98 came along with its ability to run multiple display cards. I found myself with extra displays to monitor two or more things at once running on a small network of machines

(to a lesser extent, multiple machines are also a trend).

Then came the inordinate buzz over digital flat-panel displays. It started with a demo of the Princeton monitor, and suddenly every display maker was showing off these things. Even Silicon Graphics is getting into the act with its large and stunning digital monitor.

Look Ahead At first, you get the feeling that you're seeing the future. Then you realize how small 14- and 15-inch displays are, as bright and clear and beautiful as they may be. Even the large 19-inch-diagonal monitors beg you to add another friendly screen nearby. I'm thinking that a big 19-inch display flanked by a couple of 14-inch models would be ideal.

For the budget minded, three 14-inch LCDs would work too. Or keep a monitor and flank it with LCDs. The smaller displays will be selling for about \$1,000 and the larger from \$2,000 up. The price should include a dedicated display card until all the standards are worked out and everything becomes interchangeable. Right now there is still a debate over the connectors. You have to assume that anything bought today will be backward compatible through the use of adapters or converters.

At this point you may be moaning, "How is anybody supposed to afford all this?" In fact the overall cost of a killer machine with monitor is still not much different from before. Computer prices have slipped so significantly that you can afford to up the ante for a better display. I recommend the multiple display approach only if you're using these computers as serious tools to make a living, not if you're a casual user on a budget. Whatever you do, though, you'll get a unique sense of control when you sit behind three displays. Try it!

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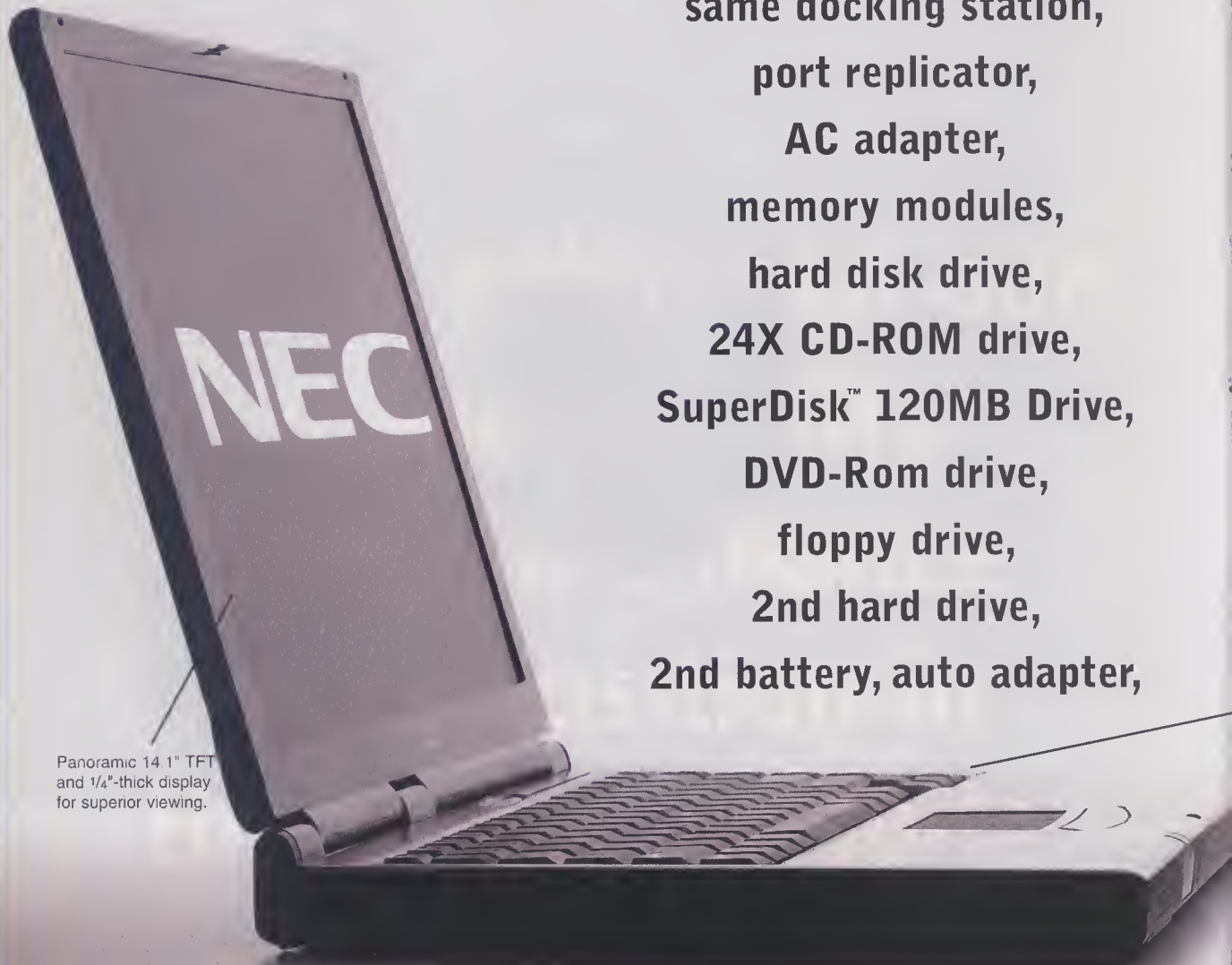
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New!

Flat Panels You Can

Doubling the space on your desk is easy: Just open the window, shout a quick warning to anyone below, and give your hulking CRT monitor a good shove.

The flat-panel monitor you swap in will give you more elbow room than you know what to do with. Flat LCD monitors also consume less power than their CRT counterparts, are lightweight and glare-free, and have almost no electromagnetic-field emissions.

But not all flat panels are created equal. Today's desktop LCDs fall into two camps: analog and digital. Until recently, most desktop LCDs were analog, but digital flat panels are increasingly catching on. These digital LCDs promise a drastic improvement in image quality—and a lower price tag. We rounded up four of these new digital LCDs to examine their refined images firsthand, and to determine which one belongs on your desk.

It's Only Natural Flat panels are digital by nature. An analog flat panel is a redundant, inefficient work-around; it's like wearing a gas mask in a non-smoking room so you can breathe clean air. This is because analog flat panels are designed to work with your graphics card, which outputs an analog signal. But since LCDs are inherently digital devices, an analog LCD must ultimately convert this analog signal back to digital form.

All this unnecessary conversion makes analog LCDs more expensive. Worse, it degrades the signal quality and causes

loss in the pixel-clock information. That can throw off the timing of the signal, which leads to banding, noise, color breakup, and other artifacts. Analog LCDs have controls to fine-tune the timing, but making these adjustments is tedious and doesn't entirely eliminate errors.

The solution is two-piece: a digital flat panel and a special graphics card capable of outputting a digital signal. Since the image signal is processed digitally, there's no data or pixel-clock loss. The result is a precise onscreen image that doesn't require you to adjust the timing controls. Best of all, you get outstandingly crisp graphics and text, and a rock-steady image, free of any flicker or

pulsing. We compared our digital LCDs with analog LCDs and were amazed at how noticeable the difference in image quality was.

The only trade-off might be the special graphics card. If you just invested in a brand-new 3-D graphics card, you may not be enthusiastic about swapping it for a different, and possibly lesser, card. And make sure your graphics card and your digital LCD adhere to the same standard. Two digital LCD standards are currently vying for acceptance. Digital Flat Panel (DFP) is the leading standard but presently supports resolutions up to only 1,280 by 1,024 pixels. Its competitor, OpenLDI, supports resolutions as high as 2,048 by 1,536.

We were impressed with several of our digital thin screens, but one stood out: Silicon Graphics' Digital Flat Panel Solution Pack. The \$2,695 package combines Silicon Graphics' 17.3-inch 1600SW digital LCD with Number Nine's Revolution IV-FP graphics card. The 128-bit graphics card, based on the OpenLDI standard, comes with a whopping 32MB of RAM ready to drive the giant LCD to an unbelievable 1,600 by 1,024 true-color digital resolution.

Whereas the typical LCD has a 0.28mm dot pitch, Silicon Graphics places its pixels only 0.235mm apart to make even the smallest text crystal clear. Multitasking is a cinch thanks to the 1600SW's SuperWide

Silicon Graphics Digital Flat Panel Solution Pack



Verdict: The best flat panel money can buy.

Pros: Exceptional display quality; 1,600-by-1,024 digital resolution; 17.3-inch screen; graphics card included.

Cons: Costs as much as your desktop PC.

\$2,695 est. street price /
Silicon Graphics /
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Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent	Leads the market and offers exceptional performance	★★★★★
Good	Excels in many areas; a good buy	★★★★
Acceptable	Average for its class; a justifiable purchase	★★★
Poor	Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features	★★
Unacceptable	Missing necessary features; avoid	★

Afford



Princeton DPP 500



Verdict: A flat-panel LCD for under a grand? Wow!

Pros: Outstanding price; pleasing display quality.

Cons: Muffled speakers; limited color range; 14-inch display.

\$849 est. street price /
Princeton / (800) 747-6249 /
Enter 698 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ViewSonic ViewPanel VPD150



Verdict: Great features and solid display quality at a sensible price.

Pros: Pivots between landscape and portrait modes; built-in speakers.

Cons: No graphics card; limited color range; 15-inch screen.

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format screen: Display two full pages of text at once or unfurl a monster spreadsheet. And although we saw some ghosting with high-contrast images, overall the display is bright, uniform, and beautiful.

Digital Triad The other three digital flat panels we examined support 1,024-by-768 resolution and work with the DFP standard.

Princeton led the pack for overall value with its DPP 500, priced at a low \$849 (including a 4MB ATI Xpert LCD card). Though it has only a 14-inch viewable area, it delivers a pleasingly uniform image free of defects. Text and graphics are crisp. Darker colors, however, dropped off quickly to black, and slight changes were difficult to detect where the display was bright. A microphone and speakers are built into the frame, but for serious audio you're better off getting these separately. Even so, for digital LCD quality at a great price,

the DPP 500 is a steal.

ViewSonic's \$995 ViewPanel VPD150 also includes speakers, but builds them into the monitor's base. This allows for a larger 15-inch viewable area and better bass response from the speakers. Another plus: The ViewPanel pivots to display in either landscape or portrait mode. The screen produced a bright, uniform image, free of streaking or ghosting. Like the Princeton DPP 500, though, the ViewPanel had difficulty producing accurate dark and light shades of color. And although the ViewPanel is a solid, good-looking digital LCD, the price doesn't include a graphics card.

We weren't exactly dazzled by Sceptre's \$1,399 BT15D+. It provided adequate image quality, better than that of an analog LCD, and the price includes the ATI Xpert LCD graphics card and built-in speakers. But while the display was bright enough, its corners appeared darker than the center. Also, the 15-inch

LCD panel consists of two halves visibly separated by an ultrathin vertical line, which might bother some users. We saw ghosting on the right side of open windows and some jittering between closely spaced lines and dots.

Compaq also expects to have a 15-inch digital flat panel out by the time you read this. All the digital flat panels we looked

at showed substantial improvement over their analog counterparts. For the space savings of an LCD but not the image-quality trade-offs, a digital LCD is the way to go. If you want the best, Silicon Graphics' MVP Award-winning Digital Flat Panel Solution Pack is the ideal. On a budget? Consider Princeton's DPP 500.

KATIE BARNES

Sceptre BT15D+



Verdict: A run-of-the-mill performer priced higher than comparable displays.

Pros: Built-in speakers; graphics card included.

Cons: Lackluster 15-inch display; limited color range.

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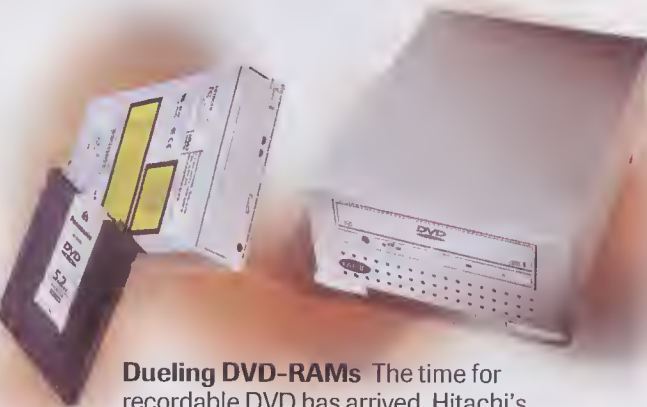
New! **HARDWARE:** LaCie DVD-RAM Drive vs. Hitachi GF-1050 DVD-RAM Drive

Record Your Own DVDs

To the casual observer, the drive nestled in the bay of that desktop system looks like an ordinary CD-ROM player. But the discerning technophile will notice the subtle symbol on the caddy door; DVD-RAM has finally arrived.

DVD-RAM is the long-awaited cousin of DVD-ROM media. Since DVD-RAM is recordable, though, you can fill each disc's 5.2GB of storage capacity as you see fit (back up your hard drive, record hours of music or video) for an incredibly low cost per megabyte—less than half a cent. We ushered a pair of first-generation DVD-RAM drives into *PC Computing's* Performance Labs: the \$799 external LaCie DVD-RAM Drive, and Hitachi's internal GF-1050 DVD-RAM Drive, which is expected to cost less than \$800.

Laser Writers A DVD-RAM drive burns data to its media the same way a CD-reWritable (CD-RW) drive does: A high-powered writing laser selectively melts areas along the spiral groove of a disc. But a DVD-RAM's laser has a much shorter wavelength than a CD-RW's, and a DVD-RAM disc contains tighter grooves, letting you cram



Dueling DVD-RAMs The time for recordable DVD has arrived. Hitachi's internal GF-1050 DVD-RAM Drive (left) and the external LaCie DVD-RAM Drive let you record 5.2GB of data on removable discs.

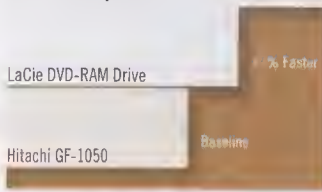
much more information onto a DVD-RAM disc. And unlike rewritable CDs, DVD-RAM media are double-sided, and the optical discs are enclosed in plastic shells.

Slow Start Both DVD-RAM drives we looked at connect to your PC via a SCSI or SCSI-2 interface, but neither kit includes a SCSI card. Also missing from both drives is MPEG-2 decoding hardware and software, which means you'll have to invest in a third-party solution if you want to use either drive to play DVD movies. On the plus side, the drives' clear instructions make for a quick and easy setup process.

Slow Burn

Both DVD-RAM drives were slow, but the LaCie drive was faster than Hitachi's GF-1050, recording a 250MB file in 16 minutes.

Recording Time DVD Write Speed



NOTE: DVD WRITE SPEED IS MEASURED BY CALCULATING THE TIME IT TAKES TO COPY A 250MB FILE ONTO A DISC. THE FILE CONTAINS A COMBINATION OF TEXT, AUDIO, AND VIDEO DATA.

The write performance of both these drives is slow. The spec sheets claim they write at 1,300Kbps, far faster than CD-RW's 300Kbps. In our tests, however, the Hitachi drive wrote at only 194Kbps, taking 22 minutes to write a 250MB file. The LaCie wrote at a somewhat more respectable 267Kbps, finishing the operation in 16 minutes. A LaCie representative claimed these write speeds will go up as the drives' I/O transfers are optimized. Both read CD-ROMs tolerably fast: The LaCie posted 9X inside and 15X outside track rates compared with the Hitachi's all-around 8X rate.

In addition to reading DVD-RAM and CD-ROM media, both DVD-RAM drives are capable of reading other optical formats such as CD-recordable (CD-R), CD-RW, video CD, audio CD, DVD-ROM, and DVD video (assuming you have the MPEG-2 hardware). Unfortunately, standard DVD drives can't read DVD-RAM, so you can't play your freshly burned DVD-RAM disc on

FILEBOX

LaCie DVD-RAM Drive



Verdict: A decent first offering of a promising technology.

Pros: Reads other optical media; endless disc space; low cost per megabyte.

Cons: Slow writing process; immature technology.

\$799 est. street price
LaCie, (503) 844-4500
Enter 666 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Hitachi GF-1050 DVD-RAM Drive



Verdict: Slower than LaCie's drive, but equal in other regards.

Pros: Tremendous capacity; reads other optical media; low cost per megabyte.

Cons: Slow; immature technology.

Less than \$800 est. street price
Hitachi America, (800) 448-2244
Enter 936 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

your friend's DVD-ROM player. The forthcoming DVD+RW, which Hewlett-Packard, Philips, and Sony support, will have shell-free media that hold 3GB per side (alas, DVD-RAM isn't compatible with DVD+RW).

Given this standards maelstrom and the slow performance the first generation of DVD-RAM drives posted, most people will want to wait. But if you need an extralarge-capacity, low-cost removable storage solution right now, the LaCie drive's faster write performance makes it the better bet.

MARTIN SARGENT

RATINGS: ★★★★★ EXCELLENT ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ ACCEPTABLE ★★ POOR ★ UNACCEPTABLE

All-in-One Video Editor

If there's one surefire way to transform a bland, no-frills PC into an awe-inspiring multimedia monster, it's the new Matrox Marvel G200-TV. The \$299 package endows your PC with a fast 2-D and 3-D graphics accelerator, a sophisticated TV tuner, a quality video-capture card, and a video-editing studio.

Setting up the Marvel's various components—a graphics card, an external connector box, and several pieces of software—was not the easiest task in the world, but the decent documentation makes the process less harrowing. And since the Marvel includes two sets of RCA cables, you won't have to make any unexpected trips to the electronics store.

Open Studio At the heart of the Marvel is Matrox's top-notch 128-bit G200 graphics chip—it'll make your 2-D business applications snap to attention. The Marvel supports 1,600-by-1,200 resolution at a flicker-free 75Hz and serves up the 3-D muscle you need for today's hottest games. Best of all, the 8MB graphics card (upgradable to 16MB) provides a solid base for the Marvel's other features to build on.

The other half of the Marvel G200-TV is a blue external



Blockbuster Video Matrox's Marvel G200-TV combines a great graphics accelerator with an external connector box to turn your PC into a powerful video-editing studio, a television, and a 3-D gaming platform.

connector box that attaches to your PC's serial port.

Plug your cable line or a TV antenna into this box, and you've got a PC-TV with enough features to turn your living-room boob tube green with envy. Forget about watching TV in a tiny window; the Marvel's TV images look great at full screen. The remote control-style interface lets you set favorite channels, password-protect specific channels, and survey what's currently showing on every channel through rows of static thumbnail images. You can even monitor a

TV station's closed-caption text strings for specific keywords—say, *cigar*—and set the Marvel to automatically record video to your hard drive or pop up a TV window the next time the word crosses someone's lips.

Moviemaking Your camcorder and VCR also plug into the Marvel's connector box, making it a cinch to feed video footage to your PC. Thanks to its hardware M-JPEG codec, the Marvel captures full-resolution, 704-by-480 video at 30 fps. This high-quality video looks great and is compressed at a ratio of 6.6 to 1. A minute of video occupies about 232MB of space on your hard drive—so be careful how much video you download, unless you have several multigigabyte hard drives at the ready.

You can turn all this video footage into professional-looking movies using the included Avid Cinema software. This nonlinear video editor lets you grab footage directly from your camcorder,

trim your video clips to perfection, and effortlessly drag and drop them into position. From there it's easy to add special effects, music, and scrolling text titles as well.

While Cinema makes video editing a simple chore, it lacks some advanced features. To put a freeze frame in your movie, for instance, you must first capture a still image using the Marvel's software and then import it into Cinema. Advanced users will find solace in the fact that the Marvel is also compatible with the more sophisticated Adobe Premiere software. When you finish editing your movie, save it as a digital AVI or QuickTime file, or send it to your VCR and save it to videotape.

Unlike many do-it-all products, the Marvel G200-TV stands out as a solid performer in every category it tackles. Whether you're looking to make your own movies or watch movies on TV, the Marvel won't let you down.

ALEXEI ORESKOVIC

FILEBOX

Matrox Marvel G200-TV



Verdict: Turns your PC into a multimedia monster.

Pros: High-quality video capture; sophisticated TV tuner; includes RCA cables.

Cons: Beginnerish video-editing abilities; not the quickest setup.

System Requirements:

166MHz Pentium (233MHz Pentium II recommended), Windows 95 or 98, 32MB of RAM.

\$299 est. street price
Matrox Graphics
(800) 844-8305
Enter 711 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink



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New! **HARDWARE:** Matrox Graphics Matrox Marvel G200-TV

All-in-One Video Editor

If there's one surefire way to transform a bland, no-frills PC into an awe-inspiring multimedia monster, it's the new Matrox Marvel G200-TV. The \$299 package endows your PC with a fast 2-D and 3-D graphics accelerator, a sophisticated TV tuner, a quality video-capture card, and a video-editing studio.

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FILEBOX

Matrox Marvel G200-TV



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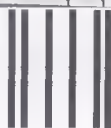
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Instant Color Copies

If you've thought it once, you've thought it a thousand times: "Sure wish I had an easy way to make a color copy of that." Now you do, and you don't have to hock the 21-inch monitor to do it. New multi-function devices from Canon and Hewlett-Packard do it all in color. Both devices act as color printers, copiers, and scanners, and the HP OfficeJet 720 supports color fax as well.

Ink to Paper The Canon MultiPass C5500 and the HP OfficeJet 720 are both built around a color ink-jet printer. Their output quality is comparable; each has its own flaws resulting from ink-jet technology's shortcomings. The 720-by-360-pixel output of the MultiPass suffers from some striping, particularly in dense images such as in presentations, but we preferred its sharp text to the OfficeJet's fuzziness. Conversely, the OfficeJet's color output was more appealing than that of the MultiPass, though the OfficeJet did have more noticeable dot patterns in photographic images.

For copying, each unit houses a color scanner. The



Techno Rainbow Canon's MultiPass C5500 (left) and HP's OfficeJet 720 are color printers, scanners, and copiers in one. For a price, the OfficeJet throws in support for color faxing (only to and from other HP OfficeJet 720s, though).

OfficeJet's scans in 24-bit color at resolutions up to 1,200 dpi, whereas the MultiPass goes only up to 600 dpi.

Earlier generations of ink-jet all-in-one printers didn't offer color copying capabilities to parallel their color printing. But even at relatively low prices, you can make color copies with each of these devices. Patience is a virtue, however. In our tests, the MultiPass took more than 10 minutes to produce a 1-page color copy, while the speedier OfficeJet required just over 4 minutes. At those speeds, you'd

better budget a few days if you plan to make 20 copies of your 10-page presentation.

That said, we were impressed with our copies from both units. The OfficeJet gets the nod for copy quality. Its colors aren't quite as vibrant as the originals, but copies from the MultiPass were on the fuzzy side—which conveniently took care of the banding that resulted in printing. The OfficeJet isn't capable of making color copies from the Control Panel—you must go through the software on your PC. It's simple, but we prefer just pushing a button or two, as you can with the MultiPass.

Chromatic Faxing For its higher price, the OfficeJet offers something the MultiPass doesn't: color faxing capability. While it's not yet a reality of everyday faxing, the option to grow into this emerging technology is a plus. The catch is that you must have the same color fax device at the other end for sending or receiving—rare in today's monochrome-centric fax world.

The MultiPass and the OfficeJet are both small-office bargains. The print quality is

FILEBOX

Canon MultiPass C5500



Verdict: A low price to pay for color printing, scanning, and copying.

Pros: Extensive front panel controls; good color matching for color copies; supersharp text printing.

Cons: More than 10 minutes for 1-page color copy; some blurring in copy images; banding in color print output; only monochrome faxing.

\$399 est. street price
Canon Computer Systems
(800) 652-2666
Enter 938 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HP OfficeJet 720

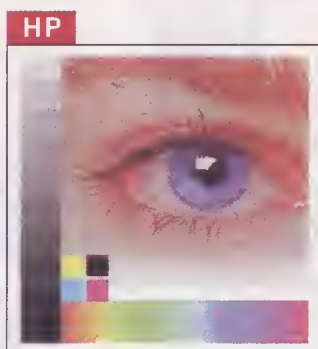


Verdict: Get the works for your small or home office, and get it all in color.

Pros: Includes parallel cable; compact size; color copy speeds twice as fast as the MultiPass's; supports color faxing.

Cons: Cannot produce color copies from front panel, only through PC software; color copies appear washed-out; heavy dithering in photographic output; text is fuzzy; higher-resolution scanner than the MultiPass.

\$629 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 752-0900



Clearly Color The color quality from the HP OfficeJet 720 is superior to that from the MultiPass C5500. However, the MultiPass's photographic images are much smoother and its text printing supersharp, while the OfficeJet's text is fuzzy.

good for each unit, and while color copies have some trade-offs, it's nice to have the option. If you plan to send or receive color faxes between two offices, then your decision is easy: Get a pair of OfficeJets. For basic printing and copying, Canon's MultiPass is the better bargain. **KYLA K. CARLSON**

RATINGS: ★★★★★ EXCELLENT ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ ACCEPTABLE ★★ POOR ★ UNACCEPTABLE

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Infolink 267 at: www.pcomputing.com/infolink

Zap! Are You Covered?

Televangelist Pat Robertson predicts that hellish weather will be visited on Disney World. If America's bastion of wholesomeness and family fun is to be rocked by hurricanes, tsunamis, and meteor showers, *your* neighborhood doesn't stand a snowball's chance in Robertson's basement. When apocalypse strikes and the power grids fail, you'll be glad you invested in an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

Basic Backup Standing between an electrical outlet and your system, a UPS is low-cost insurance against blackouts, brownouts, and electrical fluctuations. It also smooths out power spikes and supplies backup battery power during failures. We tested two sub-\$100 entry-level UPSs: American Power Conversion's Back-UPS Office 280 and Tripp Lite's Internet Office 280.

The numbers at the end of the products' names show how much power, measured in volt-amperes, they send to your system in the event of a blackout; 280VA are strong enough for an average desktop system. (We used an Internet-



Power Bars Protect your desktop system from power failures, surges, and spikes with an uninterruptible power supply like American Power Conversion's \$99 Back-UPS Office 280 (left) or Tripp Lite's \$89 Internet Office 280.

connected 133MHz Micron Home MPC Pro with a 17-inch monitor.) And, unlike some UPS companies, both APC and Tripp Lite offer \$25,000 in hardware insurance with the 280VA products. Power users with several monitors and loads of peripherals should consider a UPS in the 450VA-to-800VA range.

Both units include three battery-powered outlets with

ample room for big, awkward plugs and three surge- and line-noise-protected outlets for your printer and other non-critical peripherals. Because power spikes can travel along telephone lines and network cabling, both units have surge-suppressor jacks for RJ-11 and RJ-45 cords. Both are small, but the Internet Office is nearly half the size of the Back-UPS Office, and they each have rear slots for wall mounting. Even better, for UPSs stored on the floor, each model has a recessed power switch to keep clumsy feet from unwittingly cutting off the power.

Endurance Test In our tests, the Back-UPS Office 280 emerged as the clear endurance winner. After the juice to our PC was cut, the Back-UPS provided power for more than 9 minutes—plenty of time to save all open files, close applications, write a letter to our congressperson, and then shut down the system safely. Tripp



Clever Cord The APC Back-UPS Office 280's power cord uses a clever, space-saving design, including a handy 45-degree-angle plug.

FILEBOX

Back-UPS Office 280



Verdict: A smart way to protect your system from power problems.

Pros: Lots of battery power; easy-to-read LEDs; great documentation; clever design implementations; affordable.

Cons: Big (about 1 foot long) and heavy.

\$99 est. street price
American Power Conversion
(800) 877-4080, (401) 789-5735
Enter 939 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Internet Office 280



Verdict: An inexpensive entry-level power-protection package.

Pros: Small and light; thoughtful extras; phone line protection; the right price.

Cons: Half the battery power of the Back-UPS Office.

\$89 est. street price
Tripp Lite
(773) 869-1234
Enter 940 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Lite's UPS went on strike after providing just less than 4 minutes of power. In addition to rhythmic beeping, both UPSs have LEDs that tell you when the battery is in use. The Back-UPS's are bright enough to illuminate, in the dark, the words labeling each LED—a handy feature during a blackout.

You won't go wrong with the Internet Office, but if you want the top of the line, APC's Back-UPS Office 280 is your choice. Also on the horizon: Best Power's Patriot 250VA, another sub-\$100 contender, expected in the first part of 1999.

MARTIN SARGENT

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Give Your Laptop More Drive

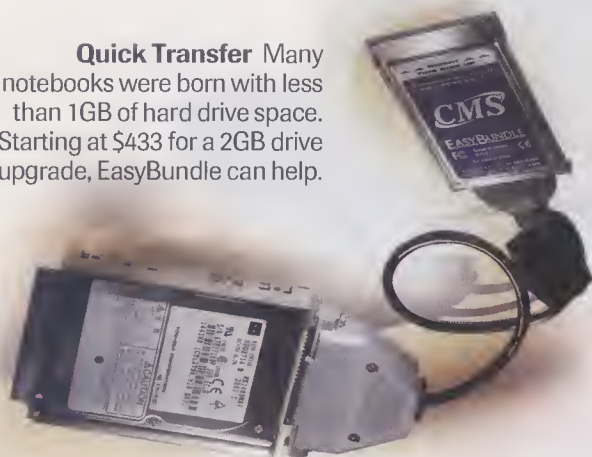
Upgrading a notebook hard drive once topped *The Book of Lists*' roll call of sheer impossibilities, falling between achieving peace in the Middle East and calculating the last digit of pi. But thanks to products like CMS Peripherals' EasyBundle, the list is one item shorter.

Until recently, the only realistic way to upgrade a portable's hard drive was to send it back to the vendor for a couple of weeks—an untenable solution for notebook-dependent business professionals. Using EasyBundle, you can do it yourself in less than an hour.

The process is almost effortless. Using the supplied PC Card, you connect the fresh hard drive to your notebook. The EasyMove drive-imaging software formats the new hard drive, and transfers all your data and applications (including the operating system) to the new disk at a rate of 10MB to 65MB per second. You then replace your old hard drive (specific instructions are provided for each of the more than 400 notebooks EasyBundle supports) with your new, higher-capacity disk.

We upgraded a 1.34GB Toshiba Satellite Pro 440CDT (one of 118 Toshiba notebooks EasyBundle supports) to a 4GB machine, though we could have bumped it up to 2GB, 3GB, 5GB, 6GB, or 8GB. Pricing depends on the

Quick Transfer Many notebooks were born with less than 1GB of hard drive space. Starting at \$433 for a 2GB drive upgrade, EasyBundle can help.



FILEBOX

EasyBundle



Verdict: A great way to upgrade your notebook's hard drive.

Pros: Effortless; fast.

Cons: Maybe it's time for a new notebook instead.

From \$433 for 2GB to \$1,216 for 8GB, est. street prices
CMS Peripherals
(800) 327-5773,
(714) 424-5520
Enter 941 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

upgrade you choose, with the maximum 8GB version costing \$1,216.

EasyBundle also lets you convert your old hard drive into an external storage device, a better option than cluttering our nation's landfills with used hard drives. **MARTIN SARGENT**

Toshiba Equium 100

Take Back Your Desktop

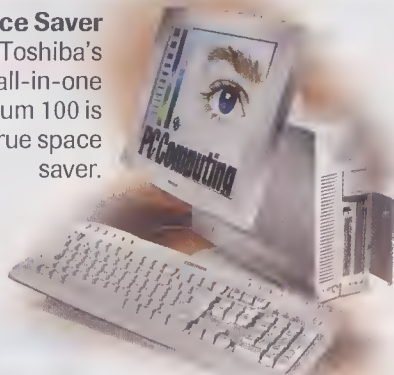
Life in the '90s is spent in cramped quarters like narrow airplane seats and packed movie theaters. You probably even drive a compact car. Toshiba's new all-in-one PC, the Equium 100, frees up some space where you need it most: in your office.

To save desk space, Toshiba attached a 15-inch LCD panel to the top of the PC. And this flat panel comes with a twist: You can rotate the screen from landscape to portrait mode.

While processor speeds don't exceed 300MHz on a Pentium II with 512K of L2 cache and a

Space Saver

Toshiba's all-in-one Equium 100 is a true space saver.



128MB, but the 3GB or 4GB hard drive is a far cry from the 8GB drive on Toshiba's Tecra 8000 notebook. There's a 16-speed CD-ROM drive and an integrated Intel 10/100 Ethernet network interface but no modem.

As you'd expect, the Equium's diminutive size limits expandability. You'll find only one free PCI slot. On the

plus side, you get two USB ports in addition to the standard one parallel and two serial ports.

Priced just under \$2,400, the Equium is hardly a bargain. In fact, you can buy a

66MHz bus, the Equium's performance was solid. In our tests, it squeaked ahead of IBM's similarly equipped Aptiva E76. Memory is standard at 32MB or 64MB and expandable to

FILEBOX

Toshiba Equium 100



Verdict: A pint-size desktop PC with a rotating flat-panel display.

Pros: Small size; integrated Ethernet; rotating flat-panel display.

Cons: Low-brow feature set.

\$2,377 est. street price
Toshiba America Information Systems
(800) 867-4422, (949) 583-3000
Enter 942 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

fully loaded desktop for the same money. But if space concerns are paramount, the Equium may be just what you need. **KYLA K. CARLSON**

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and let Voice
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the dialing.

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And he has seats for
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remember how to
track it and return
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to return calls from
the backyard.



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9:00 am



9:08 am

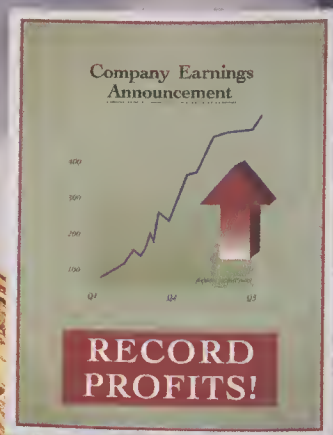


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9:21 am



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with your photos
on your PC?

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PC Photography software



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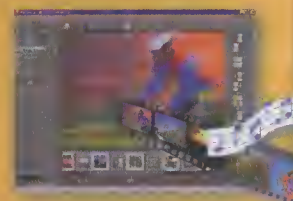
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Best seller statement based on worldwide unit shipments, 1998-1997. Dataquest Inc. report on Consumer Photo Editing, June 16, 1998.

Infolink 310 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New! **HARDWARE:** Dazzle Multimedia Dazzle Digital Video Creator

Make the Move to Video

Put yourself in the director's chair with the new Dazzle Multimedia Digital Video Creator. This impressive device connects to your computer's parallel port, captures video from camcorders and VCRs, and saves it as digitized MPEG video. And

at \$100 less than Videonics' Python, it's easily the best product in its price range.

The Digital Video Creator captures MPEG-1 video at resolutions of up to 352 by 240 at 30 fps (and still JPEG images at up to 1,600 by 1,200). In our tests, we captured smooth video with almost no dropped frames, as well as nicely synced sound. Unlike some of the other video-capture devices we've seen, the Digital Video Creator also lets you record your edited digital videos back out to videotape.

The Digital Video Creator's sleek design has clearly marked video and audio ports, plus a printer pass-through that lets you attach and use your printer.

You edit your video with the included software. Besides being able to split, trim, and combine video segments, the software offers features for building simple Web pages and creating video e-mail. For more precise video and image editing, you can use the bundled Ulead VideoStudio and Ulead Photo Express. The Digital Video Creator also supports video-conferencing.

We found the Digital Video Creator easy to install. As an external device, it's simpler to configure than an internal video-capture board. If you want to capture higher-

FILEBOX

Dazzle Digital Video Creator



Verdict: An impressive external video-capture device that offers MPEG-1 video capture and output at a reasonable price.

Pros: Easy to install and connect; comes with all cables; MPEG-1 compression; video output; good software bundle.

Cons: No on/off switch.

\$249 est. street price
Dazzle Multimedia
(510) 360-2300
Enter 943 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Director's Cut
Dazzle's Digital Video Creator lets you digitize and edit video for just \$249.



resolution video, though, you'll need a traditional board. Look for PCI and USB versions of the Digital Video Creator in the near future. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**

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Featuring ImagerET Color Layering

- Designed for workgroups of up to 20 people
- 4 ppm color, 16 ppm black
- Supports a wide range of media including envelopes, labels, transparencies and soft-gloss paper
- 8 1/2" x 14" color auto-duplex option
- High volume paper handling—up to 900 sheet input capacity

Starts at \$2,499



HP Color LaserJet 8500 Series printers

Featuring ImagerET Color Layering

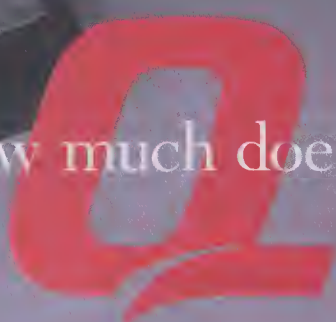
- Designed for departments of up to 50 people
- 6 ppm color, 24 ppm black
- Full range of in-house color printing features—up to 11" x 17" full-bleed for flyers, newsletters, brochures on a wide range of media
- 11" x 17" color auto-duplex option*
- Very high volume paper handling—up to 3,100 sheet input capacity

Starts at \$5,999

HP. Better color, no matter what you're printing.

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- Towerable chassis converts from desktop to minitower
- Optimized for Microsoft® Windows NT®
- 3-year limited warranty³

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The ultimate workgroup server combining next-generation performance and high availability features.

\$3,043*

Leasing Price: \$103/Month¹

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- Optional redundant hot plug power supply available
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Leasing price: \$41/Month¹

- Intel Celeron™ Processor 300A MHz
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- 32 MB SDRAM
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- Matrox MGA G100 AGP Graphics
- Towerable chassis converts from desktop to minitower
- 3-year limited warranty⁵

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Provides the latest in performance technology in a simple, flexible design that configures to the workplace. The option is open for either a desktop or minitower system.

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Leasing price: \$61/Month¹

- Intel Pentium II Processor 350 MHz
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- 64 MB SDRAM
- Compaq S700 17" (15.7" viewable) monitor
- Matrox Millennium G200-SD AGP Graphics with 8MB VRAM
- 32X Max³ CD-ROM
- Towerable chassis converts from desktop to minitower
- 3-year limited warranty⁵

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Delivers true value by providing the ultimate in desktop quality and reliability. It offers a broad range of innovative, cost-effective, and flexible solutions.

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- Intel Pentium II Processor 450 MHz
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- 64 MB SDRAM
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- Matrox Millennium G200-SD AGP Graphics with 8 MB VRAM
- 32X Max³ CD-ROM
- Towerable chassis converts from desktop to minitower
- 3-year limited warranty⁵

Options

Deskpro EP Series:

- Additional 32 MB SDRAM Memory: **\$79***
- 32X Max³ CD-ROM: **\$138***
- Upgrade to Compaq S900 19" (18" viewable) monitor: **\$200***
- SuperDisk LS-120 Drive: **\$116***
- Compaq C-Series 810 Handheld: **\$424***



Compaq Armada Notebooks

Armada 1700

The fully integrated notebook from Compaq that combines the latest key technology with uncompromising value.

\$2,299*

Leasing price: \$78/Month¹

- Mobile Intel Pentium II Processor 233 MHz
- 4.0 GB² SMART Hard Drive
- 32 MB SDRAM (expandable to 160 MB)
- 12.1" CTFT SVGA display
- 24X Max³ CD-ROM
- K56flex modem⁴
- Integrated AC Adapter
- Intelligent Manageability pre-installed
- 1-year worldwide limited warranty⁵

Armada 3500

The lightest notebook from Compaq, weighing only 4.4 lbs.

\$2,799*

Leasing price: \$95/Month¹

- Mobile Intel Pentium II Processor 266 MHz
- 4.1 GB² SMART Hard Drive
- 32 MB RAM (expandable to 160 MB)
- 12.1" CTFT SVGA display
- 4.4 lbs. and 1.3" thin
- Magnesium display for durability
- Intelligent Manageability pre-installed
- 3-year worldwide limited warranty⁵

Armada 7400

The 6.3 lb., 1.6" thin notebook, delivering the highest performance with the optimal combination of desktop equivalence and mobility.

\$3,999*

Leasing price: \$136/Month¹

- Mobile Intel Pentium II Processor 300 MHz
- 6.4 GB² SMART Hard Drive
- 64 MB SDRAM (expandable to 256 MB)
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- Powerful AGP graphics
- 24X Max³ CD-ROM
- Magnesium casing for durability
- Intelligent Manageability pre-installed
- 3-year worldwide limited warranty⁵

Options

Armada 1700:

- Compaq Value Case: **\$49***
- 32 MB Memory Module: **\$89***
- Ethernet Convenience Base: **\$279***

Armada 3500:

- Mobile Expansion Unit with 24X Max³ CD-ROM: **\$199***
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- Additional Li-Ion Battery: **\$210***

Armada 7400:

- ArmadaStation II Expansion Base: **\$879***
- MultiBay DVD Drive: **\$419***
- Additional Li-Ion Battery: **\$189***

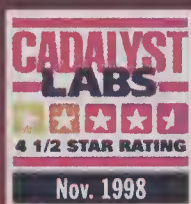
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**Nov. 1998
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**November 1998
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- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon 450Mhz Processor
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- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet & Sound
- #9 Revolution 4 32MB AGP video
- Q(2) 9GB 10,000RPM LVD (5.0ms)
- Removable HD
- AMI 466 Ultra 2 LVO Raid 0-5 Controller
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

\$4670

Acel Galaxy 52MB Quad Port Video \$6400

POWER STATION

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- 512KB Cache, Upgradeable to 2 CPU's
- 64MB SDRAM
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- 9GB 7200 RPM Ultra IDE 39140A
- Sony 32x CD-ROM
- NEW! Diamond N Vidia 16MB TNT AGP Video
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Mid-Tower Chassis

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9GB LVD 10,000RPM Solution \$2525
Raid Upgradeable

- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon Processor 400Mhz
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPU's
- 128MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (5) PCI, (1) ISA, (1) AGP
- Integrated Adaptec LVD Controller
- #9 Revolution 4 32MB AGP video
- IBM 14GB 7200RPM Ultra 33
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

\$2400

9GB LVD 10,000RPM Solution \$2920

- 1 Intel Pentium II 266Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache
- 32MB SDRAM
- Integrated:
- Creative Labs PCI Sound
- 8MB N Vidia 128 AGP Video
- 4GB Ultra 33 HD
- Slots: (4) PCI, (4) ISA
- Sony 32x CD-ROM; Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Surround Sound Speakers
- Windows 98
- Desktop Chassis
- Intel Londest Client Manager

\$872

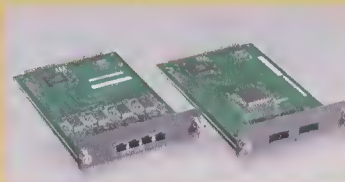
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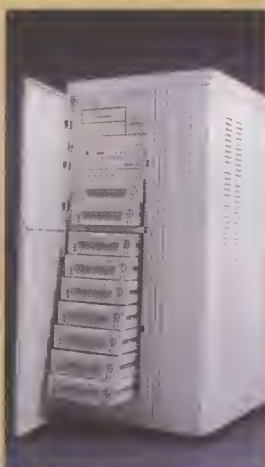
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- Matrix BMB G200 Video
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- 3 Channel LVD Raid 5 Controller w/16MB Cache
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- 1 Intel Pentium II 450Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPU's
- 128MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (4) PCI, (2) ISA
- Integrated Adaptec UW SCSI Controller
- Integrated 2MB Video
- Intel Server Mgt. Hardware
- Q.(2) 9GB 10,000RPM LVD (5.0ms)
- Removable HD
- 1 Channel LVD Raid 5 Controller w/16MB Cache
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

\$4910

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 - Power Supply Status
 - Cooling Fan Status
 - Visual and Audible Alarm

27GB Solution

- Q. (3) 9GB 7200RPM LVD HD: \$6370

27GB Solution

- Q.(3) 9GB 10,000RPM (5.0ms) LVD HD: \$6840

54GB Solution

- Q.(3) 18GB 10,000RPM LVD HD: \$8351

- Active/Active Controllers
- Q. (2) 4 Channel RAID 5 UW Controllers
- 8 - 230 Watt Hot Redundant Power Supplies
- 128MB of Cache
 - Internal Temperature Status
 - Power Supply Status
 - Cooling Fan Status
 - Visual and Audible Alarm

72GB Solution

- Q. (8) 9.1GB 7200RPM LVD HD: \$18,750

72GB Solution

- Q. (8) 9GB 10,000RPM (5.0ms) LVD HD: \$20,300

144GB Solution

- Q. (8) 18GB 10,000RPM LVD HD: \$24,498

- 1 Intel Pentium II 350Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPU's
- 164MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (4) PCI, (2) ISA
- Integrated Adaptec UW SCSI Controller
- Integrated 2MB Video
- Intel Server Mgt. Hardware
- 9GB 7200RPM LVD
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

\$1950

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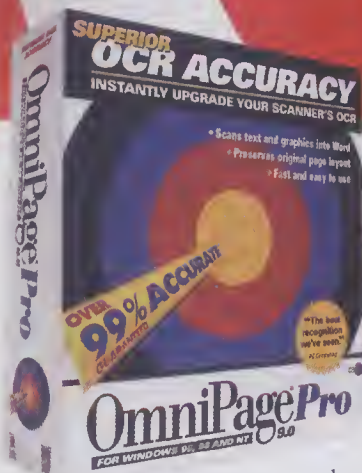
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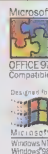
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Infotek 262 at: www.pccomputing.com/infotek

New! SOFTWARE: Intuit TurboTax Deluxe vs. Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe Multimedia

Tax Relief Times Two



OK, taxpayers, it's time for the annual tug-of-war between you and the IRS for your dollars. If you want to come out with something left in your pocket, you'd better have more on your side than earnest intent.

At the very least you need a good tax prep program like Intuit's \$50 TurboTax Deluxe or Block Financial's \$30 Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe Multimedia. Congress scrapped the tax code, but until 2002 you'll still have to wrestle for every deduction. The good news? TurboTax and TaxCut are both capable of helping you keep more of what's coming to you.

New Looks Like a pair of maturing Hollywood starlets, these programs are cosmetically altered every year—but to the same standard of beauty. No matter, because both Intuit and Block Financial got tax preparation right many years ago.

Yes, their programs have wizards to help you with a Roth IRA and the new ways of calculating capital gains, as well as information on tax law changes relating to the child-care and higher-education credits. Both participate in the IRS's new paperless electronic filing program. A few nips and tucks have streamlined their already near-perfect interfaces—in particular the new tax preparation interviews—by eliminating needless forms based on your answers to early questions.

But tax laws are still hard to follow, so TurboTax now has the Interview Navigator—a tree of hotlinks to various forms and schedules that

First name	MI	Last name	Soc sec no	Year born	Paid for child care for?
Bill	C	Baker	546-54-8898	1994	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alyssa	J	Baker	324-68-0068	1992	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tyler	D	Baker	245-65-6489	1992	<input type="checkbox"/>

Give Yourself a Break Complete your own 1040 without getting taken to the cleaners with Intuit's \$50 TurboTax Deluxe (above) or Block Financial's \$30 Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe Multimedia.

Here's a Tip The interface for TaxCut's tax preparation interview is simple and clean, with buttons and tabs that jump you to various parts of the program.

appears whenever you move your cursor over its tab.

Both programs keep that all-important refund total always onscreen so you can immediately see the difference between telling the truth and embellishing for each entry (let your conscience and the amount in your offshore bank account guide you). In addition, both are a little quirky about transferring personal finance data from other programs. For example,

TurboTax won't transfer from TaxCut returns, but imports from the popular Quicken and QuickBooks products go a lot smoother than in TaxCut.

Death and Taxes The main difference between these programs is their cost. Street prices vary, but expect TaxCut to be cheaper than its TurboTax counterpart. Also, TaxCut All-State Edition includes the forms for every state with an income tax—a good value for

those who, say, work in one state but live in another. With TurboTax, you have to buy a different copy for each state.

If you're already a TurboTax, Quicken, or QuickBooks user, easier data import makes TurboTax Deluxe the better buy. If not, the latest TaxCut will do an adequate job for a lower price. But either of these programs will get you through the process as painlessly as possible.

MIKE HOGAN

FILEBOX

Intuit TurboTax Deluxe



Verdict: The best way, short of fleeing the country, to be finished with taxes.

Pros: Great tax-preparation interview with several truly helpful usability touches.

Cons: More expensive than the comparably featured TaxCut.

\$50 est. street price
Intuit
(800) 446-8848
Enter 966 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Kiplinger TaxCut Deluxe Multimedia



Verdict: The practically perfect tax-preparation bargain of the year.

Pros: Less expensive than TurboTax; All-State Edition covers the nation.

Cons: Interface not quite as slick or informative as that of TurboTax.

\$30 est. street price
Block Financial
(800) 235-4060
Enter 967 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

RATINGS: ★★★★★ EXCELLENT ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★ ACCEPTABLE ★★ POOR ★ UNACCEPTABLE

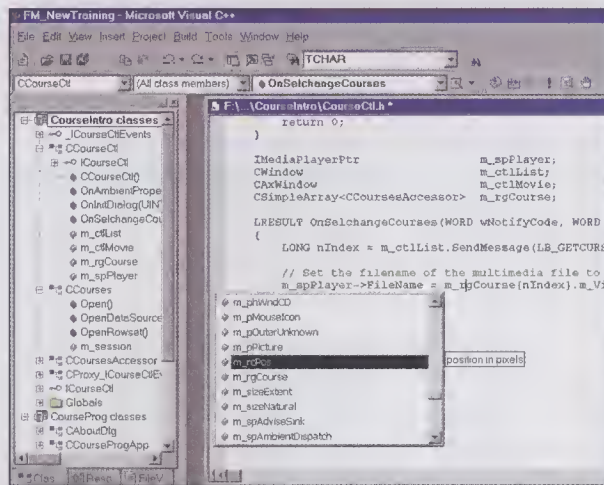
Unlock the Power of Office

Every version of Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer has powerful custom features—dockable toolbars, tool tips, OLE automation, and ActiveX, for example. But to really put these features to work you need a full-fledged programming language. Microsoft's Visual C++ 6.0 (VC++ 6.0) lets programmers unlock the power of Office and Internet Explorer and create custom Office apps.

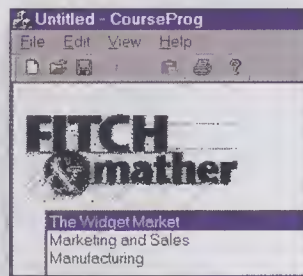
Have Sense If you've been wanting to switch from a pre-6.0 version of C++ to VisualBasic for the superior development environment that includes IntelliSense—the technology that automatically offers drop-down lists as you type to help you complete code statements—take heart. With this update, Visual C++ gains IntelliSense smarts.

In VC++ 6.0, when you type a period or -> after a variable name, IntelliSense offers a list of the available members for that object. If you enter a method name, as soon as you type the open parenthesis IntelliSense gives you the method prototype, listing each argument and their types. IntelliSense not only works for Microsoft-defined application program interfaces (APIs) and objects—Win32 API, Microsoft Foundation Classes (MFC), Active Templates Library (ATL), Standard Templates Library (STL)—it also works on *your* code. For the amount of time you save by not consulting the manuals, online CDs, and header files, this feature alone is worth the upgrade price.

Other productivity enhancements to VC++ 6.0 include updating the ClassView tree as you type, and Edit and Continue debugging, which lets you change code, rebuild, and



Quick-and-Dirty Custom Apps Microsoft's Visual C++ 6.0 lets programmers extend basic features in every version of Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer and create custom apps. New to this version is the timesaving IntelliSense feature, a drop-down list with possible completions for every code statement.



Power Tool With just a few lines of code, create an application that renders a DHTML page containing a custom Composite Control. This control creates a list of ActiveMovies and PowerPoint slides from a database for display.

continue debugging without having to interrupt the debugging session.

You can also now use ATL to build new Composite Controls from existing ones, and the wizards do most of the work. MFC lets you include Dynamic HTML functionality, Active Document Containers (ADCs), and OLE database connections in your applications. ADCs let you embed existing Active Document Servers, such as Word or Excel, to handle the various types of documents that your application requires. OLE DB technology lets your

C++ programs tap into unstructured databases.

In the database area, VC++ 6.0 also includes support for ActiveX Data Objects (ADO) that allow new ActiveX data-bound controls to access SQL Server, Oracle, Jet, FoxPro, and AS/400 VSAM databases with Microsoft-supplied drivers. Third-party drivers permit connections to Informix, IBM DB/2, and Sybase. Other database tools include a SQL Query Designer, a color-coded SQL Server Stored Procedure editor and debugger for Oracle and SQL Server 6.5 or higher, plus

FILEBOX

Microsoft Visual C++ 6.0 Standard Edition



Verdict: This C++ visual developer is hard to beat.

Pros: Full-featured C++ development for Windows applications; IntelliSense speeds development time.

Cons: Though wizards handle most of the grunt work for creating COM, ActiveX controls, and so on, they still leave you with a steep learning curve.

\$109 list price
Microsoft
(800) 426-9400, (425) 882-8080
Enter 971 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

a visual Database Designer to create databases for Oracle7 or higher and SQL Server 6.5 or higher. All these database features, though, are also available for VisualBasic, which is vastly easier to use for these tasks.

Various Visuals With the \$109 VC++ 6.0 Standard Edition, you get the compiler with IntelliSense and most of the features listed here but none of the database tools. VC++ 6.0 Professional (\$549) adds an optimizing compiler and the database tools but none of the back-end servers. VC++ 6.0 Enterprise (\$1,299) has Developer Editions of SQL Server, Cluster Server, Transaction Server, and SNA Server, plus team-development tools: Visual SourceSafe, Visual Component Manager, Visual Modeler, and Object Repository.

Microsoft's VisualBasic is ultimately a better, faster all-around programming language. But if you're deeply committed to Visual C++ programming, version 6.0 is a smart upgrade.

VINCENT CHEN

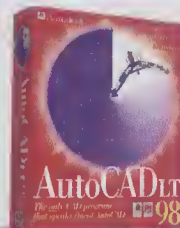
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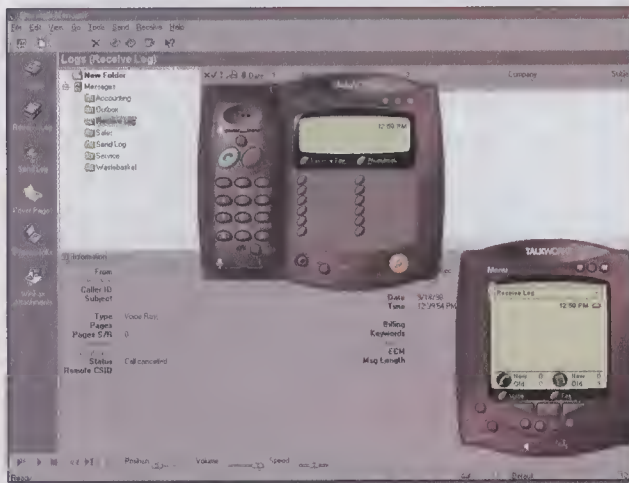
Infolink 277 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Virtual Message Centers

It's hard to run a small business when all your time is eaten up answering phone calls. Check out Symantec's TalkWorks Pro 2.0 and 01 Communicate Laboratory's Communicate Pro 2.0, two all-in-one software packages that answer your phone, send and receive faxes, and record voice messages in private mailboxes. Your computer effectively becomes a full-fledged fax and answering machine. And better yet, your small company will sound like a big one with a sophisticated phone system.

Leave a Message Communicate Pro 2.0 comes with capable faxing and voice messaging features, plus additional tools that let you check Internet e-mail, communicate with H.323-compliant Internet phones, and transmit messages to numeric or alphanumeric pagers. The program supports caller ID, and a fax-back feature lets you set up a system that will fax documents to a caller on request. A minimal contact manager organizes contacts and phone numbers and lets you record notes.

Communicate Pro's slick onscreen phone looks much like the real one on your desk, but using the interface to perform something as simple as sending a fax proved confusing. In our tests, we had to refer



Easy As Dialing Can't afford to hire a receptionist? Get software to do the job for less. TalkWorks Pro 2.0 offers attractive onscreen answering and fax machines that are easy to understand and operate.

to the manual to use almost every feature.

CallAnswer Wizard helps you set up several different voice messages that play at specified times—after hours, for example, or on the weekends—but the program needs even more wizards. As it stands, Communicate Pro can be difficult to understand and use.

Talk On The latest version of TalkWorks Pro is noticeably better and easier to use than its predecessor, which was available only as part of Symantec's WinFax Pro. (Now TalkWorks Pro includes WinFax Pro, just to keep things confusing.) You

can record your own greeting or use one of the professional-sounding prerecorded greetings, and schedule various messages to play at different times. You can check messages remotely, and the program supports pagers. TalkWorks Pro's solid faxing features include fax scheduling and fax on demand, which lets callers request that documents be faxed to them.

The program supports caller ID to identify and log callers, and does a great job of distinguishing between voice and fax calls—new to this version. TalkWorks Pro occasionally left the phone line open after the caller left a message, a problem we resolved by adjusting settings. If you own a voice modem, be sure that it's on Symantec's approved list, which can be found on the company's Web site (www.symantec.com).

TalkWorks Pro's interface resembles onscreen answering and fax machines. You can also use the intuitive Message Manager to view faxes, listen to

FILEBOX

Symantec TalkWorks Pro 2.0



Verdict: An easy-to-use, all-in-one communications tool for small businesses.

Pros: Helpful wizards for setting up the software.

Cons: Works only with specific voice modems.

\$169 est. street price
Symantec
(800) 441-7234, (408) 253-9600
Enter 972 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Communicate Pro 2.0

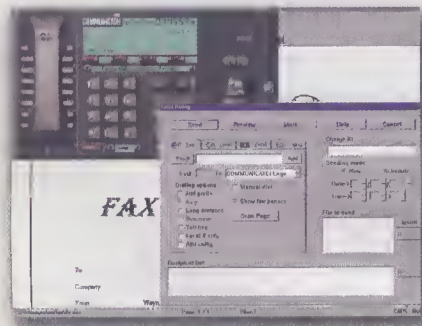


Verdict: A competent but sometimes confusing package that answers telephones, saves voice messages, and receives faxes.

Pros: E-mail and Internet telephone features.

Cons: Hard to use.

\$149 est. street price
01 Communicate Laboratory
(800) 668-2185, (905) 795-2888
Enter 973 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

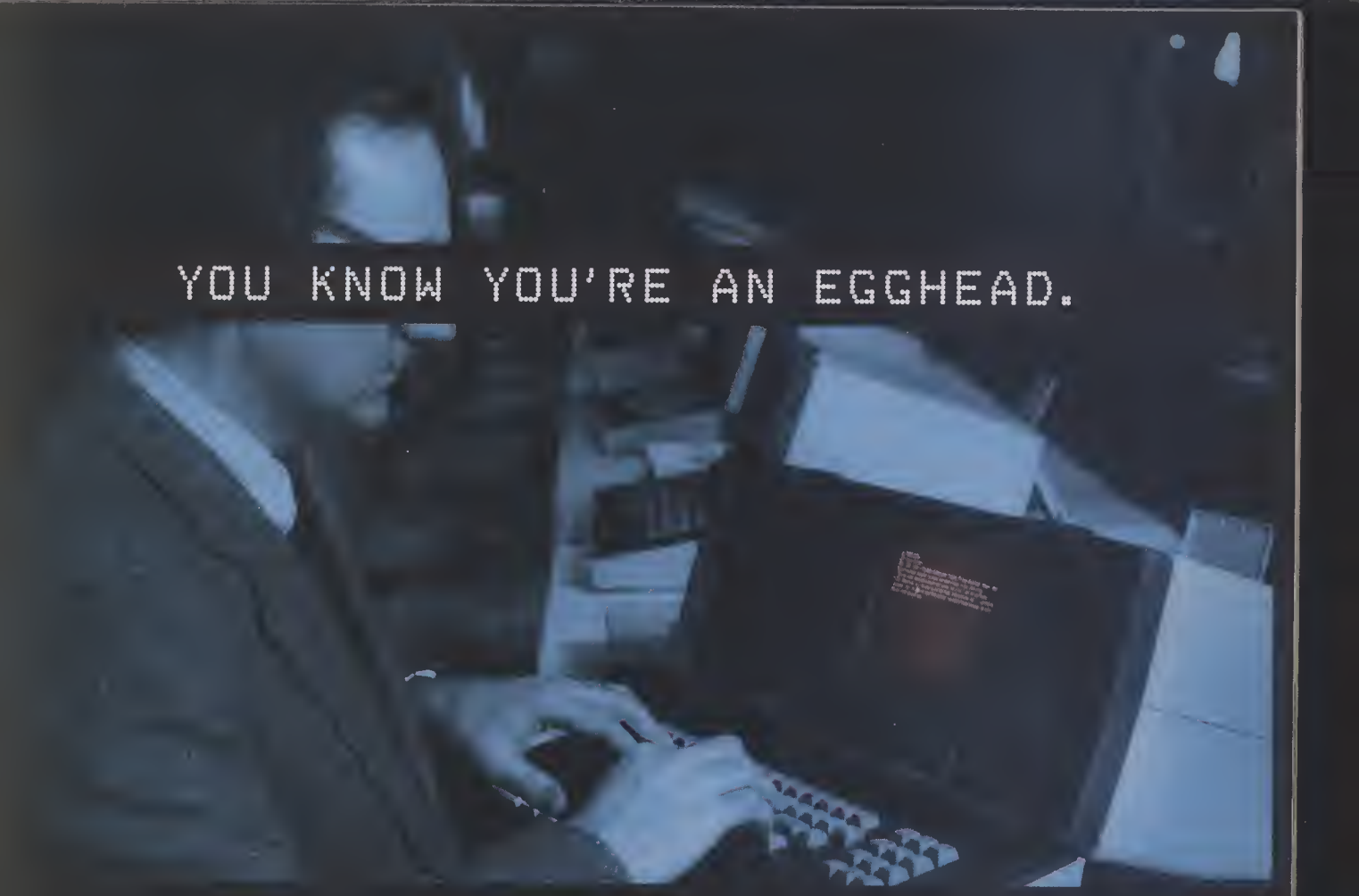


What's My Line?

Communicate Pro 2.0 has a rich but surprisingly confusing interface that resembles a telephone system.

voice mail, and organize and save your messages. Excellent wizards help you set up mailboxes, create and send faxes, and more.

When you want to use your computer to answer the phones and send and receive faxes, both of these products do the job capably. TalkWorks Pro 2.0, however, is easier to use—and before you plunk down any money for it, you can download the 30-day trial version from Symantec's Web site to make sure it works well for you and your computer. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**



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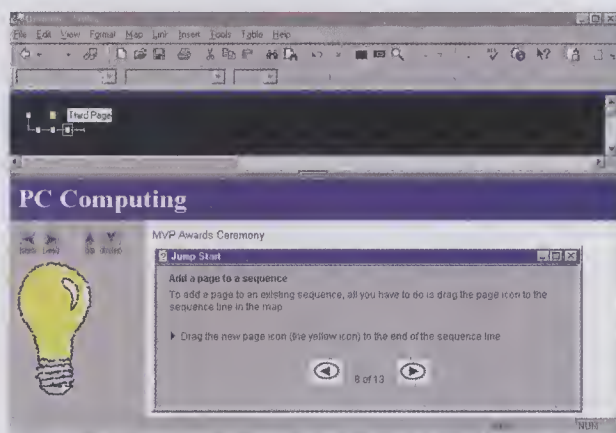
Web Docs Without HTML

Long documents are so passé. With all the hyperlinking, hypertexting, and hypernavigating that we do on the Web, it's a wonder we hyper people have the patience to scroll through any gargantuan document without hyperventilating. Truth is, we don't have the patience. And we don't need it. Using Trellix Corporation's Trellix 2.0, you can turn long documents like quarterly sales reports and technical manuals into easy-to-navigate Web or Web-like creations.

The \$99 Trellix 1.0 brought us a new way to create documents using hypertext and powerful mapping and navigation tools (see "Publish Interactive E-Documents," December 1997, page 172). The new version adds features and is easier to use, although at \$249 it boasts a high price tag as well.

Start Me Up Anyone can create documents in a flash, thanks to the getting-started tools in Trellix 2.0. The enhanced Quick Tour provides a detailed overview of the product and introduces users to new terms. Good thing, because *Trelligram*, *container*, and *sequence* are not words you associate with documents you create today. The Jump Start guide is available each time you launch Trellix. This guide offers hand-holding guidance and tips to get you started creating documents.

Original Trellix users will appreciate the 10 new layout designs, bringing the total to 27. In addition to design layouts, Trellix still sports six templates, ranging from Presentation to White Paper. While the templates are complete and extremely powerful, they border on overly complex. Trellix still includes most of the word



Click Here for More Turn long online documents into easy-to-navigate Web-like ones with Trellix 2.0. The latest version includes a handy Jump Start feature that lets newcomers get started fast.



Special Delivery Send Trellix documents to your colleagues with Trelligrams, self-executing files that display your Trellix document in your Web browser.

processing tools you require for creating documents with styles and rich formatting, and version 2.0 has beefed-up Microsoft Word import capabilities. (To import from other word processors, you're forced to cut and paste and thereby risk losing your formatting.)

Communal View Sharing documents with others, even non-Trellix users, is simple thanks to Trelligrams and improved HTML support. A Trelligram is a self-executing file that lets the recipient view the Trellix document as an HTML file in most Web

browsers—a much better alternative for distributing your text documents than using Adobe Acrobat, which requires a separate reader.

While HTML support has been enhanced, Trellix is by no means the product you will use for creating Web pages. Sure, it's a great tool for creating intranet documents such as human resources guides and the like, but for cut-and-dried Web publishing you're much better off with a product like Microsoft FrontPage, which includes extensive support for tables, frames, and other

FILEBOX

Trellix 2.0



Verdict: Create easily navigable Web-like documents without the usual hassle.

Pros: Great tutorials and help files; suggestion-rich templates; effortless document distribution.

Cons: Pricey; some interface inconsistencies; importing still rough around the edges.

Competition: Creating new documents with Trellix feels a bit like creating presentations with Microsoft PowerPoint or building Web pages with FrontPage. It includes features like detailed mapping that keep it in a league of its own, but watch for Office 2000 and FrontPage 2000 to narrow the gap between these product categories.

System Requirements: 90MHz Pentium, 24MB of RAM for Windows 95, 32MB of RAM for Windows NT, 28MB of hard disk space.

\$249 list price; \$69 for upgrade
Trellix Corp.
(800) 266-0879, (781) 788-9400
Enter 974 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HTML formatting options.

There's no doubt that Trellix is a powerful application for creating hyperlinked and easy-to-navigate documents. And Trelligrams make document distribution almost brainless. That said, we'd still like to see more powerful HTML support and a more intuitive interface. Trellix 2.0 won't replace your current tool for Web page creation, but it's a good choice for creating and distributing complex hypertext documents. **KYLA K. CARLSON**

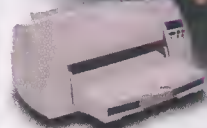
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Infolink 124 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Filing Cabinet for Your PC

Look at yourself. You've got receipts in your wallet from last year. Your desk practically sags under the weight of all that loose paper. You're a mess. But if you have a scanner, Caere PageKeeper Standard can help. For \$39, it will transform those piles of paper, wads of receipts, and boxes of photos into electronic files that can be organized, annotated, and searched from a single tidy interface.

The method PageKeeper Standard uses for creating a document index is smarter than those of other document managers we've seen. Using Caere's OCR engine, it sweeps and indexes the words in the text pages you scan. The end result is an image file that you can send to a full-blown app like



Got a Scanner? Then get organized with Caere's \$39 PageKeeper Standard personal document manager.

OmniPage Pro for OCR. But because PageKeeper Standard has performed background OCR, you can still search on any text the image contains.

Another notable feature:

When you add a file to PageKeeper Standard it creates a pointer to the source file rather than moving the file itself. As a result you can keep the same file in more than one location

and clip related files together. In all, PageKeeper Standard packs all the features you need to clean up your act. And at just \$39 it won't clean out your wallet.

LESLIE AYERS

FILEBOX

Caere PageKeeper Standard



Verdict: PageKeeper sweeps your desk clean in no time.

Pros: Indexes text from scanned files using background OCR; automatic indexing.

Cons: Limited scanner settings; doesn't include full-blown OCR capability.

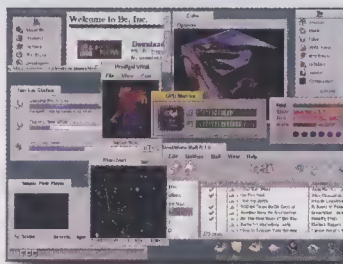
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Enter 978 at
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Be BeOS 3.2

Hey! That's Not Windows

So there are other operating systems that run on Intel chips? Absolutely: Be's \$70 BeOS 3.2. By Be's own admission this latest release is still mainly for "geeks, enthusiasts, and the curious." Regardless, there's something really exciting about booting your PC to the desktop in less than ten seconds.

BeOS is a completely multi-threaded, multiprocessor-ready operating system. The file system is 64 bit, meaning file and volume sizes of a terabyte are fully legal, and the system's journaling capacity lets you track—and undo—file-related actions. BeOS comes with its own Web browser as well as a Web server called PoorMan



Windows Wannabe? BeOS 3.2 is an alternative with potential.

that does a good job of serving up Web pages. Also included with BeOS are a C++ compiler and a handful of utilities and demos. Opening nearly a dozen processor-intensive demos, the machine hummed along, skipping nary a beat. Unfortunately,

there's a dearth of third-party apps compared with the Windows and Macintosh markets.

As the world moves to OS-neutral Web-based content, there just might be a window of opportunity for an alternative OS. For BeOS to have even a slim chance in the Intel world, Be will need to deliver hardware support beyond the few graphics cards and NICs now supported. Today, \$70 gets you a nifty C++ development environment, an OK Web server, and a vision of the OS's potential. And while BeOS 3.2 is an interesting

FILEBOX

BeOS 3.2



Verdict: A slick and exciting alternative to Windows with precious few apps.

Pros: Fast; a promising multimedia development environment.

Cons: Too few apps; too little hardware support; no Java support in this release.

\$70 est. street price
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\$1999

Business Lease*: \$76/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL DIMENSION XPS R400 PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 400MHz

- 96MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache
- NEW 12.9GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor
- 8MB ATI XPERT 98D 3D AGP Graphics Card
- 40X Max™ Variable CD-RDM Drive
- Crystal 3D 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- 3Com® 3C905B 10/100 NIC
- MS IntelliMouse
- ★ Upgrade to 128MB 100MHz SDRAM, add \$60.
- ★ Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with Two Cartridges, add \$99.

\$1799

Business Lease*: \$68/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL DIMENSION V350 PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 350MHz

- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor
- ATI 8MB 3D AGP Graphics
- 40X Max™ Variable CD-RDM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- NEW 3Com USRobotics V.90™ PCI Telephony WinModem
- 30-Day Trial Offer ConnectDirectSM Internet Access^Δ
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- Logitech First Mouse+ Wheel (PS/2v)

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Business Lease*: \$61/Mo., 36 Mos.
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Network-Designed Desktop

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- 128KB Integrated L2 Cache
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- Dell QuietKey® Keyboard
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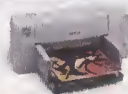
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- Deluxe Nylon Case
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- Microsoft Windows 98/Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†

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Business Lease*: \$87/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #891205

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 - 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
 - Modular 24X Max** Variable CD-ROM
 - Modular 3.5" Floppy Drive
 - NeoMagic MediaMagic 256AV AGP Video
 - 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
 - Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery
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 - Microsoft Windows 98/Touchpad
 - 3-Year Limited Warranty†
- *Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$99.

\$1999

Business Lease*: \$76/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL LATITUDE CPi D300XT PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 300MHz FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Network Optimized

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- 64MB EDO RAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- Modular 3.5" Floppy Drive
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Business Lease*: \$114/Mo., 36 Mos.
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DELL LATITUDE CP D233ST PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY AT 233MHz

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- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 20X Max** Variable CD-ROM
- Modular 3.5" Floppy Drive
- NeoMagic 128-bit Graphics Accelerator
- 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
- Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery with ExpressCharge Technology
- MS Windows NT Workstation 4.0
- Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†
- 1-Year On-site* Service

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- 3-Year NBD On-site⁺ Service
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- 32X Max⁺ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
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- 32X Max⁺ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
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- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 6-1" Hard Drive Bays
- 3 External 5.25" Drive Bays plus Dedicated 3.5" Floppy Drive Bay
- 3-Year NBD On-site⁺ Service
- 7x24 Server Hardware Technical Support
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Business Lease⁺: \$202/Mo., 36 Mos.
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- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
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- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- Three 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hot-Swap Hard Drives
- Ultra-2/LVD PowerEdge Expandable RAID Controller 2/SC
- 32X Max⁺ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- Redundant Hot-Pluggable Power Supplies, Cooling Fans and Processor Fans
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 10 Drive Bays: 6 Drive Bays, 4 Removable Media Bays
- 3-Year NBD On-site⁺ Service
- 7x24 Server Hardware Technical Support

\$7449

Business Lease⁺: \$270/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #251208

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- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache per Processor
- Three 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hot-Swap Hard Drives
- Dual Channel PowerEdge Expandable RAID Controller
- Triple Peer PCI Bus
- 32X Max⁺ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Dual Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- Redundant Hot-Pluggable Power Supplies, Cooling Fans and Processor Fans
- 7 Expansion Slots: (4) 64-bit, (3) 32-bit PCI
- 10 Drive Bays: 6 Drive Bays, 4 Removable Media Bays
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- Diamond 8MB AGP Graphics Card
- 32X Max⁴ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster Pro Compatible Sound
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- 3Com Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI Network Interface
- Remote Client Manageability Support via DMI 2.0; Wakeup on LAN Capable
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- 0.28 mm dot pitch

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- 1280 x 1024/65 Hz NI
- 0.28 mm dot pitch
- Headphone jack and two three-watt front-firing speakers

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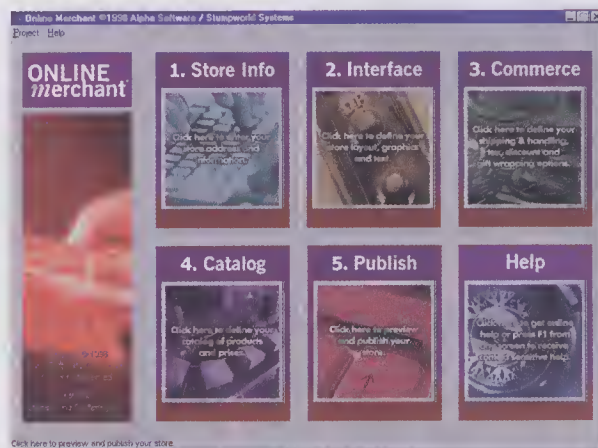
Alpha Software Online Merchant vs. IMSI WebBusiness Builder

Sell Big in Seconds

Want to learn the five-step? We're not talking about the latest line dance or addiction-recovery program. Five steps is all it takes to set up shop on the Web, thanks to e-business packages like Alpha Software's Online Merchant and IMSI's WebBusiness Builder.

Quick Web At first glance, Online Merchant looks almost too easy—the main screen's big buttons walk you through the basics. Beneath those buttons lie tabbed information windows, where you fill in the blanks, then move on to the next area. Although you can tweak many of your site's characteristics—fonts, color scheme, spacing, and so on—you can't do much with the overall structure. For instance, you're prompted to provide text for pages titled Welcome, Instructions, Store Policies, and Thank You, but you can't add more pages or rename the defaults.

Online Merchant's strengths lie in its Commerce and Catalog screens, where you can specify shipping and credit card options, offer gift wrapping, assign price breaks to volume purchases, and set up your



Click and Create Alpha Software's \$99 Online Merchant sports a dummy-proof interface that makes it a snap to whip up a Web storefront.

entire product line. These are all easy tasks; if you get confused, simply refer to the sample store.

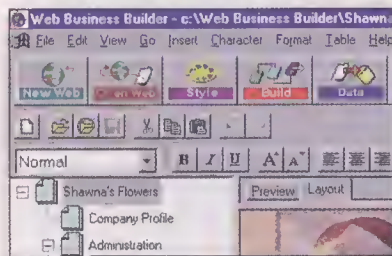
Just two problems stand between Online Merchant and a caveat-free recommendation. First, you're limited to one store. Second, the final step—filling in the ISP server information for uploading your site—is complicated. You can't even preview your site until you've supplied the necessary data, and there's little help online or in the manual. Plan on consulting your ISP for this step, and hope that it has decent tech support.

Slow Web Online Merchant may disappoint you at the final step, but WebBusiness Builder lets you down right from the start. Before you begin the

construction process, you must sign on with one of IMSI's partner ISPs. Only a couple dozen are available—you may be forced to switch from your current ISP and wind up paying more.

The next step is to choose one of 30 attractive, theme-oriented design templates. These come complete with banners, buttons, backgrounds, and graphics, giving your site a consistent and welcoming feel. Surprisingly, the software lets go of your hand once you've made your selection, leaving you to create every page—and muddle through a cumbersome interface. Thus, you must supply not only the facts and figures for your site, but the very structure as well.

Although WebBusiness Builder is difficult to learn, it offers a lot of flexibility—far more than Online Merchant does. You can add or create up



Stall-Mart Along with the flexibility of WebBusiness Builder comes a serious restriction: Only a handful of ISPs support its stores.

FILEBOX

Alpha Software Online Merchant



Verdict: A smart choice for businesses with small inventories.

Pros: Easy interface; strong catalog-creation capabilities.

Cons: Limits you to one store.

\$99 est. street price
Alpha Software, (800) 451-1018
ext. 117, (781) 229-2924
Enter 986 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

IMSI WebBusiness Builder



Verdict: Takes time to master, but you can create as many stores as you want.

Pros: Unlimited number of stores; imports product data and databases.

Cons: Doesn't work with most ISPs; confusing interface; dismal built-in help.

\$99 est. street price
IMSI
(800) 883-8082, (415) 257-3000
Enter 987 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

to 1,000 products and preview your site at any time to see how it's shaping up. Plus there's no limit to the number of stores you can create. Without the ISP limitation and with a little more courtesy toward novices, WebBusiness Builder would be a more compelling solution.

For businesses with small inventories, Online Merchant is a great way to get started. WebBusiness Builder is an interesting option, but the limited ISP support means it's not for everyone.

RICK BROIDA

RATINGS: ★★★★★ EXCELLENT ★★★★★ GOOD ★★★★★ ACCEPTABLE ★★★★★ POOR ★★★★★ UNACCEPTABLE

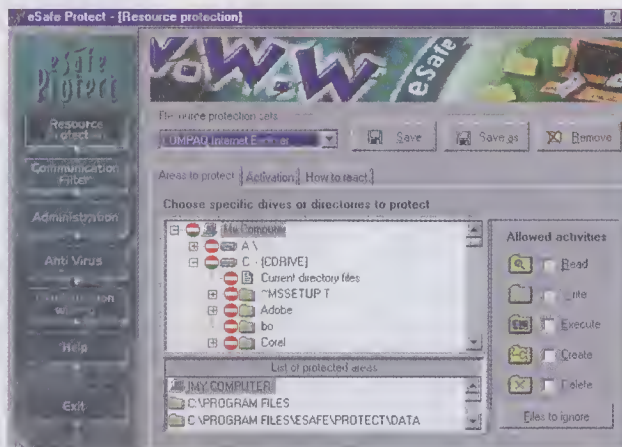
Bodyguards for Hire

Think you're safe? Sorry, but virus protection just isn't enough anymore. The proliferation of malicious Java and ActiveX programs that steal data or even format your hard disk anonymously from the Internet has raised the bar yet again for PC protection. The good news is that two new programs—eSafe Technologies' eSafe Protect 2.0 and Network Associates' Guard Dog 2.0—want to be your personal online bodyguards.

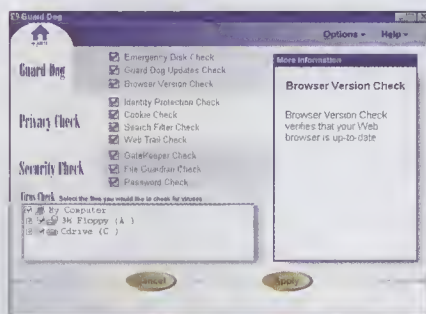
Both programs cover much of the same ground but in very different ways. Guard Dog lives up to its friendly persona with an almost giddy interface: When a problem erupts, the program barks to alert you. A goof-proof interview process gets you up and running right away by asking what kind of protection you want. ESafe is just as configurable, but the options are buried deep in a set of advanced configuration tabs.

No Trespassing Guard Dog has a cookie blocker—a feature missing in eSafe Protect—that intelligently distinguishes between sites you visit directly and those you get redirected to while surfing. It also has GateKeeper, which warns you when you visit sites known to house ActiveX and Java vandals or when your PC tries sending information over the Internet without your permission.

Since both programs include virus checkers, you could use either in place of a stand-alone antivirus product. But while both have scheduling tools and online update features, Guard Dog isn't as thorough as eSafe Protect; it missed a virus-infected Zip file in our testing.



Lock Up Keep snoops out of your business with eSafe Protect. It limits Net access to specific folders, bars sites and newsgroups by keyword, and protects your PC with a personal firewall.



Good Dog Run a battery of Guard Dog tests to make sure your PC is healthy, safe, and secure.

Despite the slicker interface, we found that Guard Dog was unable to detect numerous Java-based vandals while we were surfing—though it did detect ActiveX vandals successfully. And Guard Dog instantly detected Back Orifice—a potent Trojan horse that gives hackers complete remote access to your PC—when we tried to download it from the Internet. However, Guard Dog couldn't find the copy we planted on the hard disk. By contrast, eSafe Protect was able to flawlessly detect every vandal we encountered, including Back Orifice. Its virus checker also

found that vandal lurking on our hard disk.

Personal Firewall ESafe Protect's smart configuration tools let you create custom "sandboxes" for each of your Web-surfing programs. For example, you can specify that NetMeeting is allowed to read or write only to certain folders on your hard disk. You can also establish a personal firewall to disallow certain kinds of Net access, such as Finger or Telnet. A separate communications filter prevents your PC, by keyword, from visiting certain newsgroups or Web sites. And a secret-word glossary prohibits some words (like your

address or credit card number) from being transmitted unless they're encrypted.

At first glance, Guard Dog may appear to be the better deal—its friendlier interface is more inviting. The program even has a password manager that stores passwords for your favorite Web sites (though your browser probably already does this for you). But Guard Dog is more limited than eSafe Protect, and its protection still leaves you open to attack. For the most thorough and reliable protection from all sorts of online demons, fire up a copy of eSafe Protect instead. **DAVE JOHNSON**

FILEBOX

eSafe Protect 2.0



Verdict: Low-cost protection from the seedy side of the Net.

Pros: Sandboxes custom-trap vandals; effective virus protection; personal firewall keeps nosy surfers out.

Cons: No cookie management; setup is not intuitive.

\$50 est. street price
eSafe Technologies
(888) 772-3372, (206) 524-9159
Enter 988 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guard Dog 2.0



Verdict: Limited protection with lots of privacy and convenience features.

Pros: Easy to configure; great cookie and privacy controls.

Cons: Spotty virus and Java vandal detection.

\$59 est. street price
Network Associates,
McAfee Software Division
(800) 338-8754, (408) 988-3832
Enter 989 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink



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Infotek 312 at: www.pccomputing.com/infotek

Print Anything over the Net

You're in Paris, and they need that long, colorful document back at the office in Peoria—pronto. Your options? Faxing means a long-distance call, plus you give up color. A huge e-mail attachment will choke the system. So why not send your document as a print job to your department's color laser printer? It's possible with Nadio's InternetPrint.

InternetPrint lets you print any document from any Windows application to any networked printer over the Web via HTTP and TCP/IP. After installing InternetPrint on your Windows 95 or Windows 98 machine, you need to register with Nadio's directory server and specify the printers you'd like to share. Thankfully, there's



Better Than Being There Send any document across the Web to any networked printer with Nadio's \$79 InternetPrint, a smart alternative to faxing.

password protection to eliminate print spam.

To print, select InternetPrint from the printer dialog box. Next, specify the e-mail address, printer name, or IP address for the printer, which InternetPrint

then resolves through Nadio's directory. Unfortunately, there is no directory lookup, so you'd better know where you want to print. Also, the beta version we tested doesn't fully support Windows NT, nor does

FILEBOX

Nadio InternetPrint



Verdict: Who needs faxing? Send any document to any printer on the Web.

Pros: Universal printer driver for any Windows app; support for any networked printer.

Cons: No broadcasting; lacks full Windows NT support.

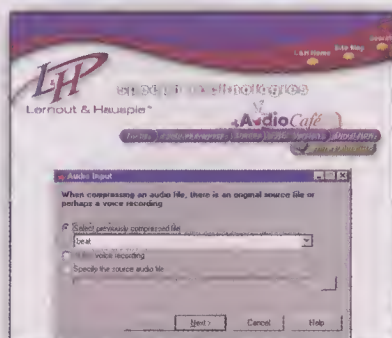
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Nadio
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Enter 990 at
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Lernout & Hauspie L&H Audio Café

Make Your Site Sing

Oh sure, you'd love to add streaming audio to your Web site. But who can afford it, let alone understand it? Well, just about anyone, thanks to Lernout & Hauspie's \$30 L&H Audio Café, a Microsoft FrontPage plug-in that makes adding audio to your Web site a complete no-brainer. Best of all, visitors to your site don't need a separate player: Audio Café is Java-based.

Audio Café adds audio to sites via a built-in WebBot, which you access from the FrontPage Hyperlinks option. To get started, simply choose the page you want to add audio to, select the Audio Café WebBot from the Insert



How Does That Sound? Lernout & Hauspie's \$30 L&H Audio Café lets you add Web sounds easily.

Menu, and then let the wizard hold your hand through the easy process.

Audio Café includes lots of options—record your own

audio using your computer's microphone, choose from the included library of sound effects, or convert an existing WAV, AU, or SND file. Use higher (16:1) compression for voices, lower (7:1) compression for music. Once converted, any sound can be added to the library.

For FrontPage users craving audio, Audio Café is the easiest and least expensive way to go. You won't find all of the high-end features of

it support print broadcasting (sending one print job to many printers)—but keep an eye on future versions. Meanwhile, InternetPrint is an inexpensive and novel way to print across the Web. **RICH SCHWERIN**

FILEBOX

L&H Audio Café



Verdict: Easy way to add audio to sites built with FrontPage.

Pros: Flat learning curve; free trial version at www.lhs.com.

Cons: Lacks extensive sound editing; missing some preview and quality-control features.

\$30 est. street price
Lernout & Hauspie
(800) 843-1224, (781) 203-5000
Enter 991 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

How do I make my personal computer
really personal?



Compaq Presario® 5600-450



COMPAQ



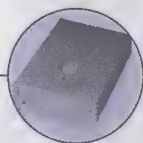
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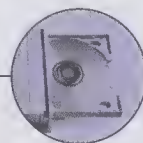
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- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- New! Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
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- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
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- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon Battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 256-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2.5 MB VRAM
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
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¹The 5X OVO-ROM Drive transfer rate is up to 6,750 KB/s compared to 1,352 KB/s for 1X OVO-ROM Drives. ²2nd-Generation OVO-ROM Drives run at a higher maximum transfer rate of up to 2.76 MB/s compared to 1st Generation DVD-ROM Drives which run at a maximum transfer rate of up to 1.348 MB/s. ³One year parts and labor. Labor for desktop systems is carry-in service with on-site service during the first 90 days of ownership. Labor for notebook systems is pick-up service. ⁴U-ADSL updates may be downloaded from Compaq's Website when available. The 1.5 Mbps U-ADSL/56K v.90 modem protocol is designed to allow faster downloads from U-ADSL, K56flex, or v.90 compliant digital sources. Availability of U-ADSL services will vary by region and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and may differ from v.90 ISP services. Maximum achievable download transmission rates with U-ADSL and K56flex/v.90 are currently unknown, may not reach 1.5 Mbps or 56 Kbps respectively, and will vary based on service provider, line conditions, and distance. Compaq is not liable for pictorial or typographical errors in this advertisement. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, and Presario registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Microsoft, MSN, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of other companies. **Call Compaq Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00pm (CST), Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-7:00pm (CST).** ©1998 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

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Know It All

Reference CD-ROMs are still the quintessential CD application—the one type of disc you're most likely to keep in your drive at all times. And reference titles just keep getting better. Nearly all of them now have links to the Internet. Speaking of which, why hasn't the Web—which holds more information than a jukebox full of DVDs—made reference discs obsolete? Because it's still too hard to find stuff. And while both the Web and these

reference works are heavily into multimedia, at least DVD doesn't make you wait a good half hour for a half-assed video. A good disc in your drive gives you instant access to information and media that's faster and better-looking than the Internet can manage at its best. Besides, where else will you find facts at your fingertips like who holds the patent to Wonder bread?

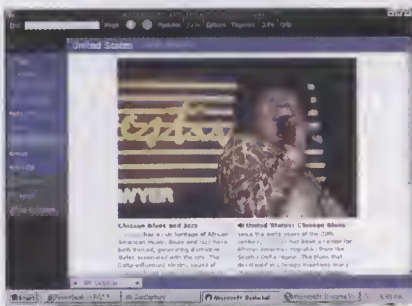
bring all those facts up to date. What's new is a revamping of Encarta's look and feel across all the members of the suite. It's always had a wicked-cool, sort of techno-noir look, but its interface was simply wicked sinful. Nothing vaguely resembled a set of standard Windows menus, and design conquered usefulness in captions that forced you to click on something to make them appear. It's so simple to use now, you'll get lost floating on a sea of beguiling facts. Type questions in normal English or use voice commands and let Encarta read to you. Encarta's also on DVD, a single disc that shows high-resolution, full-screen video. At just under 100 bucks, this is a killer DVD app and the excuse you've been looking for to get a DVD-ROM drive.

Encarta Reference Suite 99 DVD / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / \$99 est. street price / Enter 916 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



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Too Cool for School Toss your CDs, thesaurus, and dictionary. Encarta's the ultimate reference tool on DVD.



WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DVD ENCYCLOPEDIA ○○○

Killer app that it is, Encarta Reference Suite 99 isn't the only reference on DVD. Webster's International DVD Encyclopedia is in there giving it a college try, but Webster's loses the numbers game with fewer words, fewer articles, fewer animations—fewer just about everything. It does have 13 full-screen videos that use MPEG for big-screen video. But have you ever even heard of Webster's International Encyclopedia? Me neither. So. Is there really a reason for me to install it? Let's see . . . searches, pictures, sound clips, videos—here's one that refuses

to play—maps, and a homework helper. Yep. It's an encyclopedia, all right. And yeah, it's on DVD. Next!

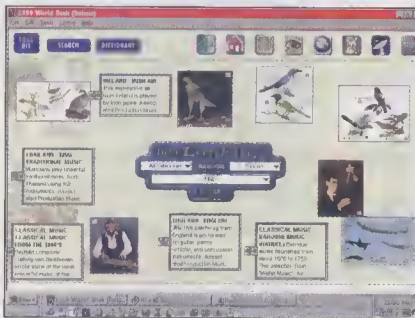
Webster's International DVD Encyclopedia / Multimedia 2000 / (206) 622-5530 / \$100 est. street price / Enter 917 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



1999 WORLD BOOK FAMILY REFERENCE SUITE ○○

Jeez. I don't know where to start with the World Book Family Reference Suite 1999. Let's begin on a positive note: The set—data contained on two CD-ROMs, no DVD planned—comes with a microphone headset for use with IBM's ViaVoice Technology, included on a third CD. From this point on, it's all downhill. There's supposed to be a Sticky List for adding your own notes to the suite's info. I could never get it to work. OK. So what? I can live without it. The Web Page Wizard is easy enough for a grammar-school child, with results a schoolchild will be happy with. On a more fundamental level, I couldn't figure out how to access the references that are supposed to make the encyclopedia a suite. The box says there's a standard dictionary—which I could find—but where's the Encyclopedia of Literature, Biographical Dictionary, Medical Desk Dictionary, and three Information Please almanacs? The medical stuff may be there. At least I could find *Prozac*. But when I threw out the only esoteric term I could remember from college lit—*affective fallacy*—I got squat. I even tried one of the examples on the cover, using

RATINGS: ○○○○○ ABSOLUTE METAPHYSICAL TRUTH ○○○○ BEST MERE HUMANS CAN KNOW ○○○ RELATIVE TRUTH ○○ SPIN ○ LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE



Where in the World? Finding information is a helter-skelter process in World Book Family Reference Suite.

the suite's pitiful time lines. Nothing. Zilch. I'm not even going to mention the idiocy of a back button but no forward button.

World Book Family Reference Suite 1999 / IBM / (800) 320-8377 / \$99 est. street price / Enter 918 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



1999 GROLIER MULTIMEDIA REFERENCE SUITE ○○

This is really a bundle of CDs masquerading as a suite. Each Grolier Multimedia Reference Suite component—1999 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition, Hammond Atlas of the World, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, and the Wall Street Journal Almanac 1998—must be installed individually. A one-disc DVD version is planned for this year, but we'll have to hold our breath on whether there's any real suite integration. Meanwhile, don't even think about searching everything at once, or moving smoothly from one reference to another. As individual references, the four elements range from OK to adequate. It's hard to go wrong with Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. But the almanac is spotty unless you need to know, say, the top-selling CD-ROMs of 1996—and only 1996.

1999 Grolier Multimedia Reference Suite / Grolier Interactive / (203) 797-3530 / \$80 est. street price / Enter 919 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA CD 99 ○○○○○

There is a worthy competitor to Encarta Reference Suite, and it's not even officially a suite. It's the totally revamped 1999 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica. Britannica provides an attractive, easy way to get to its 73,000 articles, nearly double the number in

Encarta. It includes everything that's in the print version and then some. Ask a question in plain English and you get a list of articles most likely to answer it. Browse for Knowledge in Depth and you really do learn more than you probably want to know. A useful feature called the Analyst compares statistics for any two countries or regions and prints custom tables, graphs, and charts. Its time lines are the most helpful and attractive I've seen. Although it's not a suite, Encyclopedia Britannica includes a Merriam-Webster dictionary and 30,000 Internet links—double the number in the previous edition. If multimedia is what you're after, wait for the DVD version due out early this year.

Encyclopedia Britannica CD 99 Multimedia Edition / (800) 747-8503 / \$149 est. street price / Enter 920 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



EYEWITNESS WORLD ATLAS ○○○○○

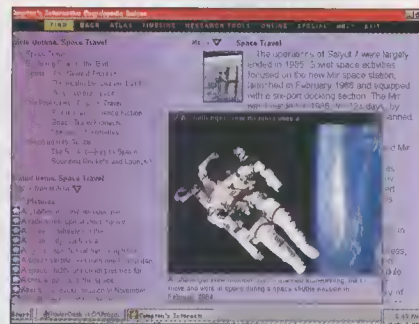
The world is divided into two kinds of people: those who like to look at the world on maps and those who don't. (This may have something to do with the fact that the world is equally divided into women and men.) For map lovers, there is no better CD-ROM than Eyewitness World Atlas. Its presentation of the maps and statistics you've seen so many times before is suddenly alive and fresh again. The interface—either a 3-D rotating globe or flat maps—is as beautiful as it is easy to use. And everything is eminently copyable to ensure that you get those extra points for visuals, whether in a term paper or a business presentation. Even the animated opening logo is spellbinding. The DVD version adds full-screen MPEG-2 videos and turns the atlas into a flight deck to let you zoom over any part of the terra in 3-D animated flybys. All CDs should be at least this good.

Eyewitness World Atlas / DK Multimedia / (888) 342-5357 / \$30, \$40 for DVD, est. street prices / Enter 921 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA 1999 DELUXE ○○○○○

Compton's Encyclopedia 1999 Deluxe has a dictionary and a thesaurus, but that doesn't make it a suite. Still, it's not just another encyclopedia on two CD-ROMs. It deserves serious consideration against all the suites. In fact, if I were (God—please—forbid) once again a high school student who'd



All-Nighter Aid Not a suite, but Compton's is still the best CD reference for the student on a deadline.

waited until the night before to do a research paper on something I knew nothing about, this is the reference I'd want to start with. The scholarly level is perfect for middle school and high school, and it's one of the easiest references to use, even better than the greatly revamped Encarta. And it comes with the best set of term-paper tools: a note organizer, a topic finder, integration with your word processor, Compton's own online library staff if you need hand-holding, and a presentation manager to create a multimedia report, just for showing off.

Compton's Encyclopedia 1999 Deluxe / Mindscape / (617) 761-3000 / \$39 est. street price / Enter 922 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY & THESAURUS 1999 ○○

How much do you need any stand-alone dictionary and thesaurus? This 1999 edition of the CD is updated—if you can call the addition of 300 new entries to the half-million words already there updating. I could find *Spam*, the delicious canned meat, but I couldn't find *spam*, the Internet junk mail. Worse, the window that definitions open up in is too small in these days of big, high-resolution screens. OK, it could be helpful if you don't use a word processor but still need to look up words occasionally because, say, you're fastidious about your e-mail. But with dictionaries being built into word processors and even e-mail programs, and with reference suites supplying so much more than just a dictionary (except for cases like the Oxford Dictionary), this type of CD-ROM is on the endangered species list.

Webster's New World Dictionary & Thesaurus 1999 / Macmillan Digital Publishing / (800) 428-5331 / \$25 est. street price / Enter 923 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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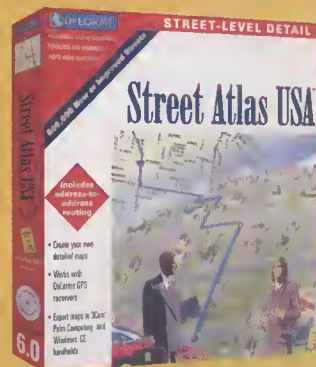
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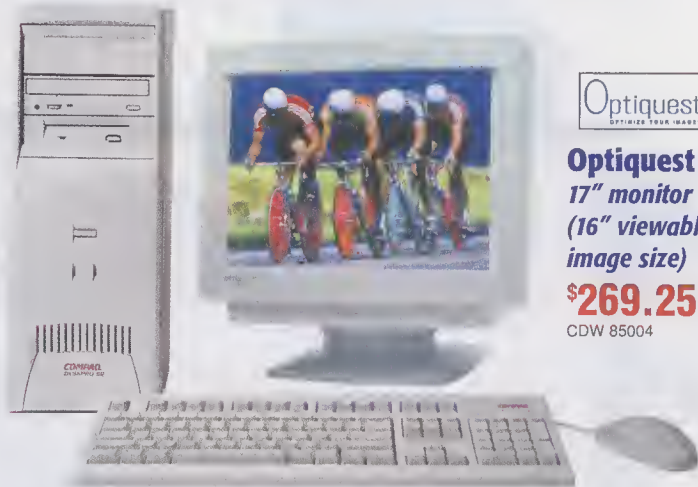
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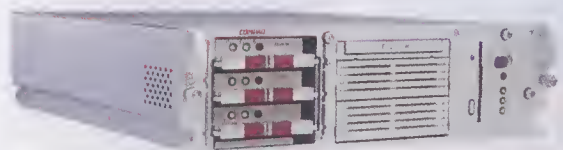
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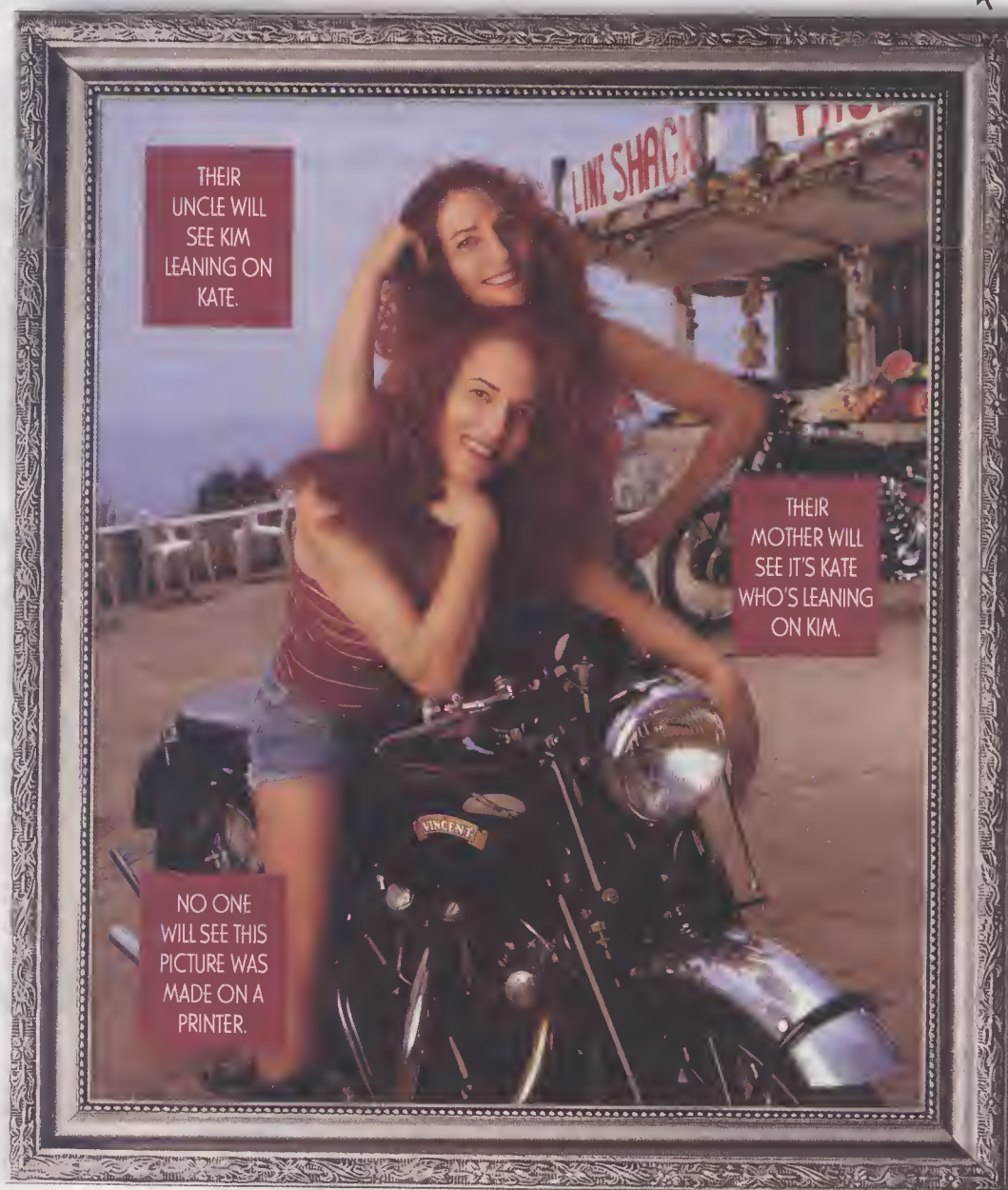


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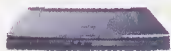
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Toshiba Portégé 3010CT
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High-Speed Network Laser Printer

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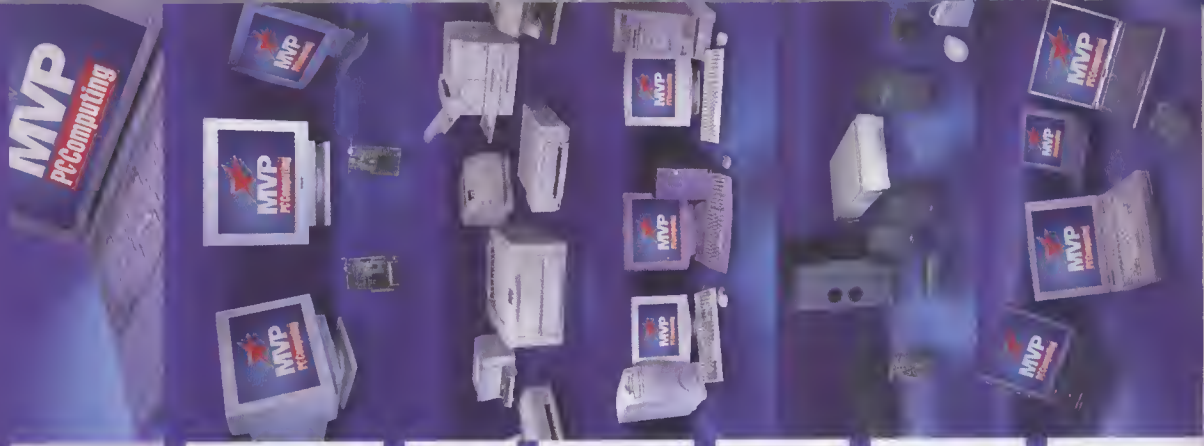
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Expansion. The optional CD Network Dock delivers full port replication with a 10/100 BaseT Ethernet, 24X* CD-ROM, floppy disk drive and speaker with microphone. When docked, Portégé does the job of a desktop and is still thinner and lighter than most notebooks. Call us at **1-800-TOSHIBA** or surf **www.toshiba.com**.

TOSHIBA

The World's Best Selling Portable Computers.

Infolink 215 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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The perfect balance.

Performance.



Power. Portégé 3010CT is ready for virtually anything. An Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 266MHz. A 4.3 billion-byte hard drive. 32MB of high speed EDO DRAM and a 128-bit NeoMagic™ Graphics Controller. Plus a 56K modem.



Expansion. The possibilities are endless. With an optional lightweight battery, two PC Card slots, an optional PC Card 24X* CD-ROM and standard port expander. It's the ideal balance of portability and performance. Call 1-800-TOSHIBA or click on www.toshiba.com.

TOSHIBA

The World's Best Selling Portable Computers.

Infolink 215 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Portability.



Style. Never before has a computer so elegantly streamlined offered such formidable power. Presenting Portégé® 3010CT. A sculpted sliver of magnesium-alloy casing. Concealing the greatest capabilities Toshiba has ever offered in a portable this compact. It's the executive privilege with a very practical purpose.

Size. It's the ultimate traveling companion. Barely three-quarters of an inch thin. Under 3 lbs. light. Portégé 3010CT travels discretely wherever you go, yet it offers features like a full-sized keyboard and a generous 10.4" TFT active matrix display.

The Most Valuable Products of the Year

Everyone loves a winner. From the Kentucky Derby to the Super Bowl to Miss America, the ones who come out on top get all the glory.

But our annual MVP process isn't a speed race or a beauty contest. We put thousands of products through *PC Computing's* Business Labs to find out which score best in our usability, reliability, and performance tests. Which have the fastest return on investment. And which are best at helping you get the job done.

These awards celebrate innovation, technology, usability, and overall design. Each of the MVP winners and finalists can give your business a real shot in the arm.

There are plenty of great products out there. The MVPs represent the best of the best in every important product category. We salute them all.

Looking for the perfect product? *PC Computing's* editors pick the best of the best.



INNOVATION of the YEAR

Cobalt Networks Qube

Microserver 2700WG If your office isn't taking advantage of an intranet, you're tossing productivity out the window. Now with Cobalt's sleek blue Linux box, you have no excuse.

Cobalt's Qube Microserver is easy to install and manage—just plug it in and go. It's very affordable. And it eliminates a lot of the Windows nightmares that often drive workgroups and small businesses batty.

Every business needs a headache-free intranet box and Web server. With Cobalt's Qube they finally have one.

Cobalt Networks / (888) 702-6225 / starts at \$1,249 list price / Enter 616 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

TECHNOLOGY of the YEAR

Lexmark Optra 1200n We live in a full-color world—except for our printer output. And we'd all like to capture exactly what's on our screens (especially when we're dealing with the Web). But color printers have long been slow, balky, and extremely expensive.

Until now. Lexmark's Optra 1200n is a technological marvel that cranks out superb color copies at 12 ppm—faster than with many black-and-white lasers. It's easy to use, and its blazing speed and crisp, bright colors take your breath away. Every office should have one.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$6,949 est. street price / Enter 647 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



USABILITY ACHIEVEMENT of the YEAR

Meridian Data Snap Server 1.1

How often has your Windows network slowed to a crawl because of limited storage? Or forced you to stop what you're doing and prune all your files? Adding more storage is often an expensive usability nightmare.

Now it's a snap. Literally. Just plug in Meridian's affordable little Snap Server, attach it to your Ethernet LAN, connect it to your network, and you're in business in minutes. It doesn't get much simpler than this.

Meridian Data / (888) 343-7627 / \$995 for 8GB, \$1,795 for 16GB, est. street prices / Enter 669 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

MVP
PC Computing
Winner



MVP
PC Computing
Winner

INDUSTRY LEADER of the YEAR

Michael S. Dell In this business, when they say "I wanna be like Mike," they're not referring to basketball. They're talking about a different kind of celebrity. A smart, gutsy, innovative person who radically changed the way PCs are bought, made, and supported. And now every computer vendor out there is trying to do it like Dell Computer Corporation.

Michael Dell believes in delivering new technology fast, manufacturing per-efficiently, providing first-class support, and marketing brilliantly everywhere, especially on the Web. He's improved the PC business for all of us.

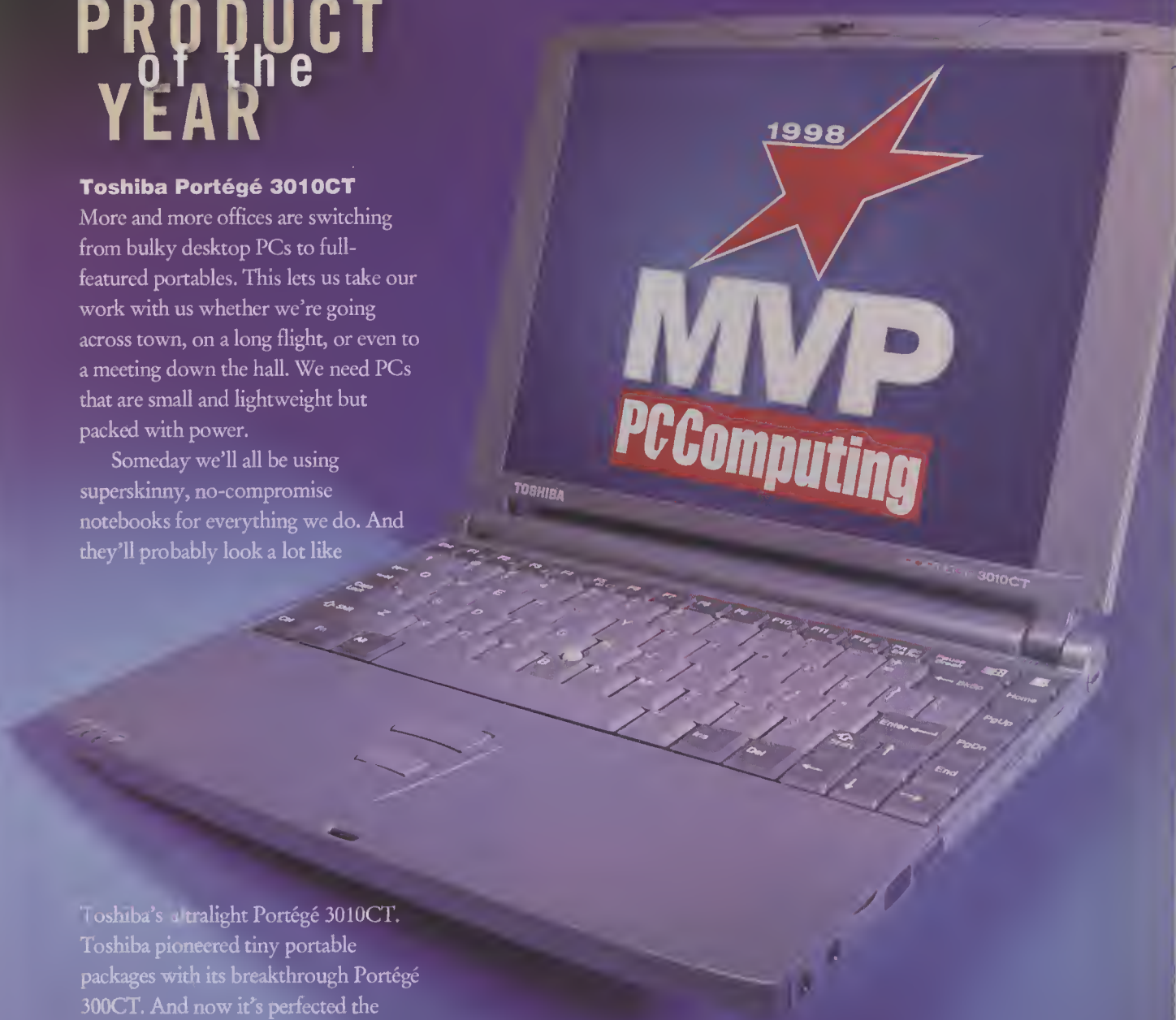
PHOTOGRAPH OF MICHAEL DELL © WYATT MCSPADDEN

PRODUCT of the YEAR

Toshiba Portégé 3010CT

More and more offices are switching from bulky desktop PCs to full-featured portables. This lets us take our work with us whether we're going across town, on a long flight, or even to a meeting down the hall. We need PCs that are small and lightweight but packed with power.

Someday we'll all be using superskinny, no-compromise notebooks for everything we do. And they'll probably look a lot like



Toshiba's ultralight Portégé 3010CT. Toshiba pioneered tiny portable packages with its breakthrough Portégé 300CT. And now it's perfected the design, with a great keyboard, a big, bright screen, and just about everything else you could ask for in a system.

It's the PC of the future, available today.

Toshiba (800) 867-4422 / \$1,999 est. street price +
Enter 627 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink





"The first word that comes to my mind when describing NVIDIA's new TNT 3D graphic accelerator is WOW! The visual quality and frame rates were astounding."

—Maximus-PC www.maximuspc.com

"The STB Velocity 4400 has surpassed the Creative TNT as the TNT card of choice. With faster performance, TV-out, and a low price, the STB Velocity 4400 might very well be the best TNT to date. Go for the Velocity instead of the Creative."

—CPU Madness, Novamoot 1998

"...performance so extraordinary
it will change the next
generation of games."

"...performance was better than any 2D/3D
combo card I've seen. On top of that, games
like Quake II and FLIGHT SIMULATOR 98
looked spectacular at 1024x768 and
1280x1024 (respectively)."

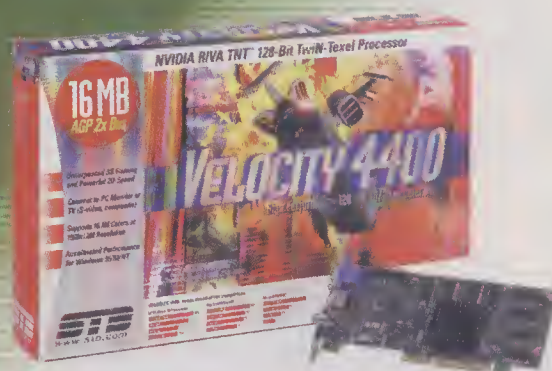
—Computer Gaming World, September 1998

"I don't think I would be out of line in saying
that when it comes to Direct 3D performance
the Velocity 4400 takes the first place trophy.
The bottom line is that the Velocity 4400 IS
the future of graphics acceleration..."

—Hardware Review, October 1998

"...competing in an arena with the likes of
the Savage 3D, Banshee and G200. All of
these it will beat handily...they are the Kings
of the 2D/3D combo card!"

—RivaZone, www.rivazone.com

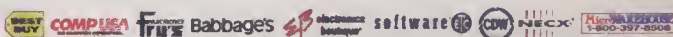


- RIVA TNT™ 128-bit 3D/2D and video accelerator
- 16MB of memory for resolutions up to 1920x1200
- 250MHz RAMDAC for refresh rates up to 160Hz
- Output to monitor or TV (s-video & composite)
- Windows 95, 98, NT and OpenGL support
- Lifetime warranty and unlimited toll-free support
- Available for AGP and PCI bus


nVIDIA


www.stb.com

STB products are available at:



Infolink 363 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

It used to be that sizzling new systems captured all the headlines. This year the big story wasn't speed, but price. (How low could the prices go? Answer: rock bottom.) And networks led the news, with souped-up servers and monster storage becoming so usable that you really could just plug the devices in and go.

Notebooks and handhelds got smaller and even more capable. Color printers became mainstream and fast, with output so realistic it threatens conventional photo-processing. Scanners and digital cameras went down in price and up in quality and usability, sprucing up drab text with far more graphics.

Big screens became wildly popular (and



STATE-OF-THE-ART DESKTOP PC

1 Dimension XPS R450

Get the fastest PC on the planet. It's packed to the gills: a 450MHz Pentium II, 128MB of RAM, a 14.4GB screaming-fast hard drive, STB's 16MB TNT-based graphics card, a DVD-ROM drive, and a Zip drive. It delivers all the spine-tingling performance you can handle, whether you run Windows 98 or NT.

Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$2,679 est. street price / Enter 601 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Gateway G6-450 With DVD and CD-RW, this 450's got everything in it but the kitchen sink.

Gateway / (800) 846-2000 / \$2,838 est. street price / InfoLink No. 602

Quantex QP6/450 SM-4x SE Blazing 450MHz performance and top-drawer components, yet easy on your wallet.

Quantex Microsystems / (800) 787-8686 / \$2,499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 603

HIGH-PERFORMANCE PC

2 Dimension XPS R400

You want power, but you don't need every bell and whistle. Get the Dimension XPS R400, the R450's little brother. This speedster outpaced every comparable system we matched it against. And no wonder: It comes fully loaded with a 14.4GB hard drive, DVD and Zip drives, a network card, and an 8MB STB Velocity 128 graphics card.

Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$2,399 est. street price / Enter 604 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Kayak XA PC Workstation Workstation prowess meets bargain-basement PC prices.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772 / \$2,643 est. street price

Millennia 400 Max A speedy performer with both a DVD drive and a Zip drive.

Micron Electronics / (888) 634-8799 / \$2,849 est. street price / InfoLink No. 605

DESKTOP WORKHORSE PC

3 Vectra VL Series 7

Clever designs and powerful systems are the Vectra line's calling card. And the Series 7 is no exception. This 333MHz Pentium II tower boasts 64MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, a speedy 8MB Matrox Productiva G-100 integrated video graphics card, and a network card. The PC's design is first-rate: Flip two levers, and the cover slides right off.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772 / \$1,997 est. street price



FINALISTS

Deskpro EN 6333X/6400/CDS A smart, powerful, and very serviceable 333MHz Pentium II system.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$1,850 est. street price / InfoLink No. 606

Gateway E-3200 450 It's fast, it's loaded, and it's well designed. Period.

Gateway / (800) 846-2000 / \$1,972 est. street price / InfoLink No. 607

affordable). And for the first time, we began bypassing CRTs for a new generation of crisp, cool, radiation-free flat-panel displays. The graphics cards we chose for driving these screens plummeted in price, came loaded with gobs of video RAM, and began the switch from analog to digital.

Storing everything became far easier with huge, fast hard disks and easy read-write optical drives.

Digital video turned into a serious business tool, and the final PC bottleneck—cramped bandwidth over small pipes—crumbled in the face of cable modems, DSL, universal 56K analog access, and speedy, robust networks. It's about time.

LOW-COST DESKTOP PC

1 Aspire 1832 Don't think a sub-\$1,000 machine is for you? Take a look at the Acer Aspire 1832. The system's 266MHz AMD K6 processor and 8MB ATI Rage Pro graphics card deliver fast performance. You also get a 5.4GB hard drive, a 24X CD-ROM drive, a 56K modem, and room to expand.

Acer America / (800) 733-2237 / \$900 est. street price / Enter 608 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Presario 2256 A friendly 300MHz home PC that's ready to surf the Net.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$998 est. street price / InfoLink No. 609

Thunderbolt V2300 A well-stocked 333MHz Pentium II with a Matrox G100 graphics card.

Tagram System Corp. / (800) 824-7267 / \$1,129 est. street price / InfoLink No. 610



SOHO/HOME ENTERTAINMENT PC

2 Sony VAIO PCV-E308DS It's right at home, whether for business or pleasure. You get a 450MHz Pentium II processor, 128MB of RAM, a 13.6GB hard drive, an 8MB graphics accelerator, and a 5X DVD-ROM drive. What really makes the system a standout is its front-mounted S-link and I-link ports, which let you easily grab digital video clips from a camcorder.

Sony Electronics / (888) 315-7669 / \$2,800 est. street price / Enter 611 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Destination XTV-450XL A loaded 450MHz Pentium II with a 36-inch monitor.

Gateway / (800) 846-2000 / \$4,999 est. street price / InfoLink No. 612

Presario 5600 Series A Windows 98 poster child: FireWire, USB, DVD, and a flat-panel display.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$3,298 est. street price / InfoLink No. 613



WORKSTATION PC

3 Kayak XU PC Workstation Kayaks are fast, versatile crafts, and this HP workstation is no exception. It's powered by a pair of 400MHz Xeon processors and 256MB of RAM. But beyond muscle, the key to the Kayak's success is its thoughtful design. Its MaxiLife LCD is a window inside the machine and ensures that your Kayak is always running at full bore.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772 / \$6,690 est. street price

FINALISTS

IntelliStation M Pro Power and quality components in a well-designed box.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7255 / \$2,250 est. street price / InfoLink No. 614

Xeon LVD RAID A Xeon-based workstation with plenty of power to grow into.

SAG Electronics / (800) 989-3475 / \$10,500 est. street price / InfoLink No. 615



SMALL BUSINESS SERVER

1 Qube Microserver

2700WG Plug it in. That's all it takes to serve intranet data to a small workgroup with Cobalt's incredible Qube 2700WG. This cool-looking blue cube is a cinch to set up and equally easy to use. It runs Linux 2.0, but you administer it, configure user profiles, and build workgroup applications from your PC's browser. And at around \$1,250, this thin server is perfect for small businesses limited by a thin budget.

Cobalt Networks / (888) 702-6225 / starts at \$1,249 list price / Enter 616 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

InterJet 200 Fast T1 access for all, courtesy of this smart Web box.

Whistle Communications / (888) 494-4785 / \$3,495 est. street price / InfoLink No. 617

Team Internet 300 A black box that supports every Net protocol out there.

Apexx Technology / (800) 767-4858 / \$3,499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 618

WORKGROUP SERVER

2 ProLiant 1600

This workgroup server is begging for abuse. But no matter how hard you try, you won't be able to bring the ProLiant 1600 to its knees. In fact, it performs even better when the load increases. Inside, you'll find two 400MHz Pentium IIs, 512MB of RAM, and six 4.3GB hard drives. Its tool-free case and design make managing the ProLiant a snap, and Compaq's Insight Manager keeps a watchful eye on more than 1,000 of the server's functions.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$10,591 est. street price / Enter 619 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

NetFrame 3100 Superb Web performance at an unbeatable price.

Micron Electronics / (888) 634-8799 / \$3,599 est. street price / InfoLink No. 620

PowerEdge 2300 It's fast, and servicing it is as easy as playing with Legos.

Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$11,663 est. street price / InfoLink No. 621

DEPARTMENTAL SERVER

3 ProLiant 6000 Xeon

The 6000 is a design masterpiece. An oversize, onboard LED provides critical reports on server status, and built-in remote-server management abilities mean you can monitor your server and each of its clients from anywhere. Four 400MHz Pentium II Xeon processors and support for up to 8GB of RAM and 18 hot-swappable hard drives ensure that your network is always running at full peak.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$31,961 est. street price / Enter 622 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

NetServer LH3 A bulletproof, dual-Pentium II server that won't break your budget.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772 / starts at \$5,000 est. street price

PowerEdge 6300 Excellent performance and superb usability make this quad-Xeon server a smart choice.

Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$30,861 direct price / InfoLink No. 623



PORTABLE DESKTOP REPLACEMENT

1 ThinkPad 770X It's a showcase of refinement, power, and usability. From its 300MHz Pentium II processor to its gorgeous 14.1-inch active-matrix display, the 7.1-pound 770X's performance and visual show outshine that beige minitower on your desk. Swap out the 8.1GB hard drive for a DVD drive, a floppy drive, or even a second hard drive.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7255 / \$4,999 est. street price / Enter 624 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Inspiron 7000 The 8.9-pound Inspiron has a 15-inch screen and a DVD drive to boot.

Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$3,699 est. street price / InfoLink No. 625

Tecra 8000 Packs everything you'd expect from Toshiba's finest into a 7-pound skin.

Toshiba / (800) 867-4422 / \$3,499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 626



LIGHTWEIGHT TRAVELING COMPANION

2 Portégé 3010CT Your eyes won't believe your hands when you first pick up Toshiba's superskinny Portégé 3010CT. Fast Pentium power, a 10.4-inch active-matrix display, and all the bells and whistles—in a sub-3-pound package. What's the catch? With Toshiba's lightest, there's no catch. Even the keyboard is hospitable to flying fingers.

Toshiba / (800) 867-4422 / \$1,999 est. street price / Enter 627 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Sojourn The best keyboard and screen you'll find in a 3-pound PC.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772 / \$3,699 est. street price

Sony VAIO 505FX A miraculously capable 3-pound notebook—and it's beautiful too.

Sony Electronics / (888) 315-7669 / \$2,199 est. street price / InfoLink No. 628



WORKHORSE PORTABLE

3 Versa SX Not many notebooks pack both grit and polish. But this is a rare bird. Its 300MHz Pentium II processor runs Windows 98 and NT with equal aplomb. Its stunning 14.1-inch active-matrix display suits presentations—and productivity. And at 5.4 pounds, the Versa is well suited for life on the road.

NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$3,799 est. street price / Enter 629 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Solo 3100XL Easy on the shoulders (it's just 5 pounds), power to spare, and priced right.

Gateway / (800) 846-2000 / \$2,999 est. street price / InfoLink No. 630

ThinkPad 600 It's got muscle, panache, and distinguished usability in a 5-pound package.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7255 / \$4,399 est. street price / InfoLink No. 631



LOW-COST PORTABLE

4 Satellite 2505CDS Friends and colleagues will give you a skeptical glare when you tell them it's possible to buy this 6.7-pound 233MHz Pentium notebook with 32MB of memory, a 2GB hard drive, and a roomy 12.1-inch color screen for less than \$1,200. When you tell them it's a Toshiba, they'll think you're fibbing.

Toshiba / (800) 867-4422 / \$1,199 est. street price / Enter 632 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Extensa 500 Series Model 502DX Loaded and priced to move—all 7.3 pounds of it.

Acer America / (800) 733-2237 / \$1,499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 633

Presario 1235 This 7.5-pound notebook features superior design at a bargain price.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$1,699 est. street price / InfoLink No. 634



HANDHELD PORTABLE

5 Palm III Connected Organizer Its usability knows no peer—there's no tiny keyboard to bother with, no overcomplicated software. This PDA synchronizes with your desktop PC at the press of a button. Rugged and fairly priced, it is quite simply the most usable handheld PC you can buy.

3Com / (800) 881-7256 / \$369 est. street price / Enter 635 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

C Series 2010C The best way to put Windows CE in your pocket.

Compaq Computer Corp. / \$699 est. street price / InfoLink No. 636

Rex Pro PC Card Organizer Credit-card-size but more useful than a paper appointment book.

Franklin / (888) 739-6400 / \$230 est. street price / InfoLink No. 637



PERSONAL LASER PRINTER

1 SuperScript 870 For a price lower than one car payment, the NEC SuperScript 870 delivers an 8-ppm laser printer that impresses with beautiful 600-dpi results.

NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$349 est. street price / Enter 638 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

HP LaserJet 6L A reliable workhorse. Coming soon: its replacement, the LaserJet 1100.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$395 est. street price

Optra E+ Great-looking output from a name you can trust.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$395 est. street price / InfoLink No. 639



HIGH-SPEED LASER PRINTER

2 Optra S 1255 You'd expect to spend a lot more money for this printer, with a 12-ppm engine and gorgeous 1,200-dpi resolution.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$866 est. street price / Enter 640 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

PageWorks 12 An affordable printer that's ideal for small networks.

Minolta Corp. / (888) 264-6658 / \$649 est. street price / InfoLink No. 641

SuperScript 1260 Speedy 12-ppm output for a song.

NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$699 est. street price / InfoLink No. 642



HIGH-SPEED NETWORK LASER PRINTER

3 DocuPrint N32 Its 32-ppm engine spits out pages so fast you'll lose your excuse for a coffee break. High-end options such as a duplexer and mail sorter make it work harder.

Xerox Corp. / (800) 349-3769 / \$2,900 est. street price / Enter 643 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

LaserJet 8000 N For razor-sharp, 1,200-dpi output, look no further.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$2,640 est. street price

Optra S 2455n Fast, affordable network printing.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$2,149 est. street price / InfoLink No. 644



PERSONAL COLOR PRINTER

4 Stylus Color 850 Pages this stunning from an ink jet? Believe it. The Stylus produces vibrant colors and smooth images. It proves that no budget is too small for slick color printing.

Epson America / (800) 463-7766 / \$349 est. street price

FINALISTS

5700 Color Jetprinter The best choice for plain-paper printing.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$179 est. street price / InfoLink No. 645

BJC-4304 Photo Superb-looking text and photos. Plus it turns into a scanner.

Canon Computer Systems / (800) 652-2666 / \$219 est. street price / InfoLink No. 646



NETWORK COLOR PRINTER

5 Optra 1200n High-quality color used to be reserved for the graphics department. Now everyone can get in on the act with the revolutionary Optra 1200n and its dazzling 1,200-dpi output and 12-ppm engine.

Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$6,949 est. street price / Enter 647 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Okipage 8c Sacrifice a little speed and save a lot of money.

Okidata / (800) 654-3282 / \$3,495 est. street price / InfoLink No. 648

Phaser 560 Handsome 1,200-dpi output and fast text printing.

Tektronix / (800) 661-5625 / \$4,995 list price / InfoLink No. 649



PERSONAL PHOTO PRINTER

6 PhotoSmart Photo Printer No more trips to the Fotomat shop. Develop your digital photographs with HP's PhotoSmart instead. You won't believe that a printer this inexpensive produces such brilliant output.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$299 est. street price

FINALISTS

P-300 Photo Printer Great partner to your Olympus digital camera.

Olympus America / (800) 347-4027 / \$399 est. street price / InfoLink No. 650



PROFESSIONAL PHOTO PRINTER

7 ColorImage 3000 Pros need high-quality output and dead-on color matching. The ColorImage 3000 delivers with direct Photoshop integration and ICC color-matching profiles for perfect prints.

Imaging Technologies / (800) 756-0556 / \$8,499 list price / Enter 652 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Mitsubishi CP2000DU Knockout images for those who require the best.

Mitsubishi Electronics America / (800) 843-2515 / \$5,600 est. street price / InfoLink No. 653

Phaser 450 You want the highest-quality output? Go with the Phaser.

Tektronix / (800) 661-5625 / \$6,995 est. street price / InfoLink No. 654



DESKTOP HARD DRIVE

1 Deskstar 22 GXP File management is a lost art thanks to behemoth drives like the Deskstar 22 GXP. While plenty of space is enticing, what's really impressive about the drive is its speed: This 7,200-rpm EIDE screamer even outpaces comparable SCSI drives.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7777 / \$599 est. street price / Enter 655 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Fireball EX 12.7 GB Superior performance and jumbo capacity at a tantalizing price.

Quantum Corp. / (800) 624-5545 / \$359 est. street price / InfoLink No. 656

Medalist Pro 6530 A fast and affordable midsize hard drive.

Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / \$200 est. street price / InfoLink No. 657



LOW-COST REMOVABLE STORAGE

2 Zip Plus Yes, it is a popularity contest—when it comes to sharing files. That's why the Zip Plus is your best choice. Its huge installed base means you'll find one—probably dozens, actually—of these reliable and affordable drives wherever you go. With 100MB per cartridge, you have plenty of space for all the documents, downloads, and digital images that have become your trusty traveling companions.

Iomega Corp. / (800) 446-6342 / \$169 est. street price / Enter 658 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALIST

SuperDisk Drive The speedy, backward-compatible heir to the floppy drive.

Imation Corp. / (888) 466-3456 / \$150 est. street price / InfoLink No. 659



HIGH-CAPACITY REMOVABLE STORAGE

3 Jaz 2GB It's Andre the Giant of removable storage, only much faster. With a data transfer rate of 8.7Mbps and room for 2GB of stuff, it's ready and willing to perform heavy-duty operations like running full-stream video and Adobe Photoshop. The Jaz is a godsend for graphic design professionals, desktop publishers, multimedia gurus, CAD experts, and video artists.

Iomega Corp. / (800) 446-6342 / \$349 est. street price / Enter 660 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALIST

Apex 4.6 Faster than most magneto-optical drives and, at 4.6GB per platter, twice as big.

Pinnacle Micro / (800) 553-7070 / \$1,495 list price / InfoLink No. 661



DVD/CD-ROM DRIVE

4 DDU 220E/H 5X DVD-ROM Bundle It's movie time. Fluid, high-quality, blow-your-hair-back movie time. Sony packs third-generation 5X DVD technology into this stellar drive while the rest of the pack gloats over second-generation offerings.

Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / \$349 list price / Enter 662 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Multi Beam 40X Plus Get true 40X speeds, thanks to breakthrough technology.

Kenwood Technologies / (888) 730-4206 / \$119 est. street price / InfoLink No. 663

Pioneer DRM-6324X Keep your favorite CDs at your fingertips with this 24X six-disc changer.

Pioneer New Media Technologies / (800) 444-6784 / \$495 est. street price / InfoLink No. 664



RECORDABLE STORAGE

5 CD-SpeedWriter Deluxe Go, SpeedWriter, go! With this 4X-write, 12X-read CD recorder, burn your own discs with all the music, data, and images you want in less than 20 minutes. The drive's easy-to-use bundled software makes the potentially tricky task of recording CDs a snap.

Smart and Friendly / (800) 959-7001 / \$499 est. street price / Enter 665 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

LaCie DVD-RAM Drive CDs are too wimpy for you. Pack 5.2GB on each DVD disc instead.

LaCie / (503) 844-4500 / \$799 est. street price / InfoLink No. 666

Philips PCA362RW Don't skimp. This is the most reliable 2X-write CD-RW drive you can buy.

Philips Consumer Electronics / (800) 210-9605 / \$369 est. street price / InfoLink No. 667



NETWORK STORAGE

6 Barracuda 18 EIDE drives are great for the desktop, but when it comes to your network, you need SCSI's reliability and performance. The Barracuda 18 delivers, with an Ultra2 SCSI interface, 7,200-rpm speed, and a 7.6ms seek time. With a stack of these on the network, you won't worry about a thing.

Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / \$999 est. street price / Enter 668 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Snap Server 1.1 Plug and go. That's all it takes to add network storage. Smart software too.

Meridian Data / (888) 343-7627 / \$995 est. street price for 8GB / InfoLink No. 669



Ultrastar 18XP Get bulletproof backup and unlimited storage for your network.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7777 / \$1,050 est. street price / InfoLink No. 670

PERSONAL SCANNER

1 TotalScan Express It's all here. 600-by-1,200 resolution. Handy buttons to launch scan, copy, and fax utilities or other apps. Plus speedy scans.

Storm Technology / (888) 438-3279 / \$249 est. street price / Enter 671 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

PaperPort OneTouch Instantly scans and files anything that lands in your paper in-box.

Visioneer / (800) 787-7007 / \$249 est. street price / InfoLink No. 672

SnapScan EZ The ideal office companion: excellent image quality and all the extras.

Agfa / (888) 281-2302 / \$129 est. street price / InfoLink No. 673



PROFESSIONAL SCANNER

2 Expression 636 Artist

You want high-quality scans, but don't know a pixel from a histogram. The Expression 636 Artist 2's scanning and correction software has you covered.

Epson America / (800) 463-7766 / \$699 est. street price

FINALISTS

Astra 2400S Professional scanning for those on a budget.

Umax Technologies / (800) 562-0311 / \$399 est. street price / InfoLink No. 674

ScanJet 6100C Well-rounded: beautiful scans, smart software, and loaded with options.

Hewlett Packard / (800) 722-6538 / \$799 est. street price



DIGITAL CAMERA

3 DC260 Zoom Camera

Toss your 35mm camera. With Kodak's DC260 you don't give up a thing: 1,536-by-1,024-pixel resolution for great shots, 3X optical zoom, and easy LCD controls.

Eastman Kodak Company / (800) 235-6325 / \$899 est. street price / Enter 675 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Agfa 1680 Goof-proof shots, pivoting design, and advanced controls make this a great choice.

Agfa / (888) 281-2302 / \$899 est. street price / InfoLink No. 676

Coolpix 900s Clever swivel design with excellent image quality and a 3X optical zoom.

Nikon / (800) 526-4566 / \$799 est. street price / InfoLink No. 677



SOUND CARD

4 SoundBlaster Live

No more flat games or uninspired music. This PCI card with 512 voices and true 3-D surround sound adds life to anything.

Creative Labs / (800) 998-5227 / \$199 est. street price / Enter 678 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Diamond Monster Sound MX200 Play all the best games with its A3D 3-D audio support.

Diamond Multimedia / (800) 468-5846 / \$150 est. street price / InfoLink No. 679

Montego A3D Xstream More great A3D sound.

Voyetra Turtle Beach / (800) 233-9377 / \$99 est. street price / InfoLink No. 680



SPEAKERS

5 MidiLand S2

4100 PC sound that rivals your stereo. The 100-watt four-piece system performs, thanks to its sleek satellites and powerful subwoofer.

MidiLand / (888) 592-1168 / \$400 est. street price / Enter 681 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Digital Sound System 80 No sound card required. Get pure digital audio with this USB setup.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / \$259 est. street price / InfoLink No. 682

PC Works FourPointSurround Top-dollar sound for peanuts.

Cambridge SoundWorks / (800) 367-4434 / \$100 est. street price / InfoLink No. 683



UPS

6 Back-UPS Pro

650 Your PC's data is your life. Don't take any chances. The Back-UPS Pro 650 gives you 650VA protection and the longest battery life of any UPS we tested.

American Power Conversion / (800) 877-4080 / \$265 est. street price / Enter 684 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Internet Office 420LP Protect your PC for pocket change.

TrippLite / (416) 661-6090 / \$160 est. street price / InfoLink No. 685



INPUT DEVICE

7 Cordless Wheel Mouse

A cordless mouse that really works—honest. Its scroll wheel gives you the ultimate control over all your apps.

Logitech / (800) 231-7717 / \$60 est. street price / Enter 687 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Creation Station Get a pen and tablet for the same price as a mouse.

Calcomp Technology / (800) 458-5888 / \$129 est. street price / InfoLink No. 688

IntelliMouse Pro Once you scroll through your apps, you'll never go back to clicking.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / \$75 est. street price / InfoLink No. 689

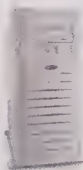




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**SUCCESS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF AMBITION,
CONNECTIONS, OR A REALLY GOOD TO-DO LIST.**



Address book



Date book

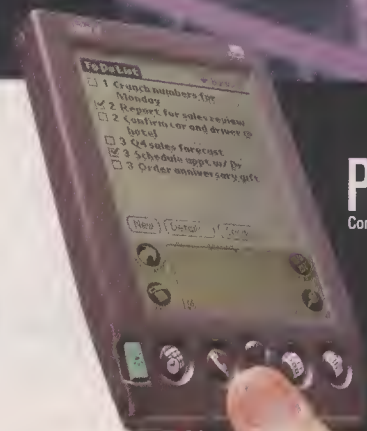


Memo pad



To do list

Itemize, categorize, and prioritize everything you need to do. Conquer a goal with each box you check. And that's just the to-do list. With the Palm III™ connected organizer, you can store thousands of contacts and years of schedules. Even exchange that information back and forth with your PC and our HotSync® technology. So when everything you need is right at your fingertips, who needs a corner office? Palm Computing® connected organizers start as low as \$249*. To learn more, visit www.palm.com.



Palm III
Connected Organizer

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More connected.™

HIGH-RESOLUTION 17/19-INCH MONITOR

1 VisionMaster 450 A beautiful monitor shouldn't break your budget. Case in point, Iiyama's \$659 VisionMaster 450. This 19-inch display serves up great color, and photo images so real you'll pinch yourself.

Iiyama North America / (800) 394-4335 / \$659 est. street price / Enter 690 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

FlexScan FX-C6 Razor-sharp text makes it a worthy desktop companion.

Eizo Nanao Technologies / (800) 800-5202 / \$669 est. street price / InfoLink No. 691

Multiscan Computer Display GDM-400PS A pleasing combination of gorgeous color, crisp image quality, and innovative controls.

Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / \$800 est. street price / InfoLink No. 692

HIGH-RESOLUTION 20/21-INCH MONITOR

2 Multiscan GDM-F500 Computer Display with FD Trinitron You know you want it. Sony's 21-inch flat-faced display is stunning. The Trinitron tube projects extrabright, extracolorful images onto a roomy screen. Because it's flat, images are geometrically perfect: no curving, pin-cushioning, or other distortions.

Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / \$1,900 est. street price / Enter 693 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

SyncMaster 1000p Save a bundle and still get an excellent picture.

Samsung Electronics America / (800) 933-4110 / \$1,139 est. street price / InfoLink No. 694

ViewSonic P815 This big and beautiful 20-inch screen supports 1,800 by 1,440 resolution.

ViewSonic Corp. / (800) 888-8583 / \$1,295 est. street price / InfoLink No. 695

FLAT-PANEL DISPLAY

3 Digital Flat Panel Solution Pack Workstation-class graphics come to the PC courtesy of Silicon Graphics and Number Nine. The SuperWide format, giant 17.3-inch screen, and 1,600-by-1,024 resolution will leave you speechless. And the 32MB Number Nine Revolution IV-FP graphics card ensures a brilliant image.

Silicon Graphics / (888) 744-7373 / \$2,695 est. street price / Enter 696 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

MultiSync LCD2010 At 20 inches, the biggest LCD screen you can buy.

NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$4,599 est. street price / InfoLink No. 697

Princeton DPP 500 A digital LCD for \$849, ATI graphics card included.

Princeton / (800) 747-6249 / \$849 est. street price / InfoLink No. 698



HIGH-PERFORMANCE GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR

4 Millennium G200 Get the best of both worlds: top-notch 2-D performance for all your business applications and respectable 3-D performance for all the fun stuff. The 8MB board is powered by Matrox's own 128-bit MGA-G200 chip, and it takes full advantage of AGP 2X.

Matrox Graphics / (800) 844-8305 / \$149 est. street price / Enter 699 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Revolution IV A fast 32MB graphics card for just over \$200.

Number Nine Visual Technology / (800) 438-6463 / \$219 est. street price / InfoLink No. 700

Stealth II G460 Affordable 2-D and 3-D action that won't disappoint.

Diamond Multimedia Systems / (800) 468-5846 / \$130 est. street price / InfoLink No. 701

3-D GAMES ACCELERATOR

5 Viper V550 Prepare for liftoff. Diamond's Viper V550 3-D graphics accelerator lets you have it all: blazing performance and high resolutions. Its support for the newest gaming enhancements means you get a realistic picture at a beautiful 1,024-by-768 resolution.

Diamond Multimedia Systems / (800) 468-5846 / \$200 est. street price / Enter 702 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Pure3D II All the power of Voodoo II with some nifty Canopus extras.

Canopus Corp. / (888) 868-2533 / \$200 est. street price / InfoLink No. 703

Velocity 4400 TNT-based performance and 3-D graphics that will blow your mind.

STB Systems / (800) 234-4334 / \$199 est. street price / InfoLink No. 704

PRESENTATION DISPLAY/PROJECTOR

1 InFocus LP425 Making that pitch just got a little bit easier, thanks to the LP425. This 6.8-pound DLP projector is no heavier than a notebook PC, so you won't mind carrying it across town or across the country. It sets up in minutes. And it has enough power to light up any wall with small, bright images—even with the lights on.

InFocus / (800) 294-6400 / \$5,000 est. street price / Enter 705 at www.pccomputing.com/infoclink



FINALISTS

MultiSync LT80 Bright and portable, with great controls.

NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$5,500 est. street price / InfoLink No. 706

X200 LCD Projector Picture-in-picture, plus all the other high-end special effects you need.

Mitsubishi Electronics America / (800) 843-2515 / \$11,995 est. street price / InfoLink No. 707

DIGITAL CAMCORDER

2 Optura Sell your old analog video camera at the next garage sale; you need the Optura. The Optura's progressive-scan CCD means you get a supersharp picture, while its optical stabilizer guarantees smooth footage. The Optura even takes digital still shots and has a flash attachment.

Canon U.S.A. / (800) 652-2666 / \$2,699 list price / Enter 708 at www.pccomputing.com/infoclink



FINALISTS

DCR-PC1 Digital Handycam Camcorder Sharp video and a swivel LCD screen.

Sony Electronics / (800) 222-7669 / \$1,899 est. street price / InfoLink No. 709

JVC GR-DVL9000U You'll love the giant LCD and plenty of special effects.

JVC / (800) 252-5722 / \$1,699 est. street price / InfoLink No. 710



DIGITAL VIDEO CAPTURE

3 Matrox Marvel G200-TV Buy the best video-capture device and get a 3-D graphics accelerator and TV tuner free. For video capture, it doesn't get much easier. The Marvel pops into your PC and includes handy software that makes capturing and editing video painless.

Matrox Graphics / (800) 844-8305 / \$299 est. street price / Enter 711 at www.pccomputing.com/infoclink



FINALISTS

All-in-Wonder Pro The original combo card gets even better.

ATI Technologies / (905) 882-2600 ext. 8226 / \$170 est. street price / InfoLink No. 712

Studio 400 Everything you need to digitize and edit camcorder videos.

Pinnacle Systems / (888) 484-3366 / \$229 est. street price / InfoLink No. 713

VIDEO EDITING TOOL

4 Adobe Premiere 5.0 Premiere is still king of the hill. And version 5.0 is the best yet. Its elegant and intuitive interface transforms complex video-editing tasks into simple chores. You'll have no problem keeping track of your various video clips thanks to the addition of clever database fields.

Adobe Systems / (800) 422-3623 / \$599 est. street price / Enter 714 at www.pccomputing.com/infoclink



FINALISTS

MGI VideoWave Easy does it: drag-and-drop filmmaking.

MGI Software / (888) 644-7638 / \$99 est. street price / InfoLink No. 715

Ulead VideoStudio 3.0 It proves even novices can look good.

Ulead Systems / (800) 858-5323 / \$100 est. street price / InfoLink No. 716



A person's legs are sticking out of a red box. The box has the number "128" on it. The background is a fiery orange and yellow gradient.

ATI RAGE 128 Is Born.
Graphics Scream.

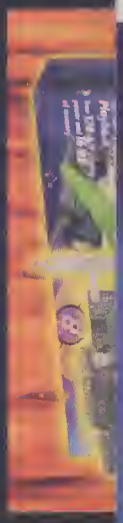


ATI RAGE FURY

The 32MB Ultimate Game Card

We know playing games is serious business, and this is one serious gamer card. With 32MB of memory on-board. More advanced 3D and 2D features built-in. More speed, more performance, more realism and heart-pounding excitement than you ever thought possible. The new ATI RAGE FURY delivers better-looking, more compatible gaming performance than cards costing hundreds more.

- A new 128-bit graphics engine and 128-bit memory interface for incredibly fast 3D and 2D graphics performance
- 32MB of memory for realistic gameplay with massive textures and high resolution
- Full OpenGL ICD, Direct 3D and DirectX 6.0 support for all your favorite 3D applications and games
- Advanced 3D features including line and edge anti-aliasing, double buffering, gouraud shading and multi-texturing
- Full 3D acceleration in all modes, all color depths, and all resolutions up to 1920x1200
- Built-in hardware DVD for full-frame, full-screen DVD playback
- TV-Out for big-screen gaming



ATI XPERT 128

The Price/Performance Powerhouse

ATI brings striking graphics performance to home, small office and home-based business PCs. With 16MB of memory on-board, AGP 2X graphics, brilliant 2D acceleration and a massive list of superior 3D performance features and visual enhancements, the ATI XPERT 128 is in a class all by itself. In fact, it's the best all-round graphics upgrade you can buy today.

- A 128-bit graphics engine and 128-bit memory interface for super-fast 3D and 2D graphics performance
- 16MB of memory radically improves speed and appearance
- Full support for Direct 3D and OpenGL for all your favorite graphics-intensive 3D games and applications
- Advanced 3D features including line and edge anti-aliasing, double buffering, gouraud shading, multi-texturing and bilinear/trilinear filtering
- Full 3D acceleration in all modes, all color depths, and all resolutions up to 1600x1200
- Full-frame, full-screen MPEG-2/DVD playback without the need for additional hardware



ATI RAGE MAGNUM

Professional Power Plus

It's a whole new generation of hyper-performance PC graphics accelerator for NT workstations. With blinding speed, extensive in-hardware features and much more bang for the buck than ever. The new ATI RAGE MAGNUM delivers smoother animation and richer, faster, more accurate content design.

- 128-bit graphics engine with advanced triangle setup and 128-bit memory interface for ultra-fast true-color, 3D and 2D graphics in high resolutions
- 32MB of memory to handle massive graphics textures at high resolutions and provide full support for 32-bit hardware Z with OpenGL
- Fully featured OpenGL ICD optimized to provide superlative performance for professional graphics, 3D animation, CAD/CAM and visualization
- Advanced graphics architecture with SuperScalar Rendering, line and edge anti-aliasing, gouraud shading, Twin-Cache, Single-Pass Multi-Texturing and bump mapping
- Full 3D acceleration in all modes, all color depths, and all resolutions up to 1920x1200
- Built-in hardware DVD for full-frame, full-screen DVD playback

For complete specs and the amazing performance numbers, go to www.atitech.com.



The New Breed of Speed.



It's the newest generation of graphics technology. And a whole new standard for speed.

Prepare to behold the new standard in PC graphics performance.

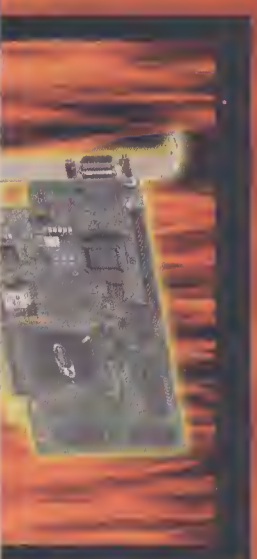
The new ATI RAGE 128 technology. Furiously fast. Fabulously flexible. Profoundly new and exciting. From the worldwide leader in PC graphics.

Its heart is in the new ATI RAGE 128 next-generation 3D accelerator, the revolutionary new graphics chip that delivers the fastest performance, no matter what the measure – 3D, 2D or video. It combines a true 128-bit engine and up to 32MB of memory with ATI's new SuperScalar Rendering, Twin-Cache Architecture and



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1 U.S. Robotics 56K

Faxmodem This V.90 screamer gives you the best hardware-software bundle to make the most of the Internet. 3Com's Connections CD-ROM covers all the basics.

3Com / (800) 342-5877 / \$149 est. street price for external / Enter 717 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Accura K56Flex/V.90 Modem Speed up your surfing with this smart modem.

Hayes / (800) 377-4377 / \$119 est. street price / InfoLink No. 718

SupraSonic II Get two modems in one for Net access up to 112Kbps.

Diamond Multimedia / (800) 468-5846 / \$149 est. street price for internal / InfoLink No. 719

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

2 **DirecDuo** With the DirecDuo you get superspeedy 400Kbps access no matter where you live. Bonus: 400-plus TV channels.

Hughes Network Systems / (800) 347-3272 / \$450 est. street price, plus monthly Internet and TV service charges; installation, activation, and rebates vary / Enter 720 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Courier I-modem Digital or analog connections? Get both with 3Com's I-modem.

3Com / (800) 638-3266 / \$299 for external, \$260 for internal, est. street prices / InfoLink No. 721

Prestige 100IH Get more than just an ISDN connection with this versatile four-port hub.

ZyXel Communications / (800) 255-4101 / \$399 est. street price / InfoLink No. 722

VIDEOCONFERENCING

3 **Live200 Desktop Videoconferencing System** The best Windows NT-based videoconferencing system out there gives you superb audio and video.

PictureTel / (800) 716-8000 / \$1,295 est. street price / Enter 723 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



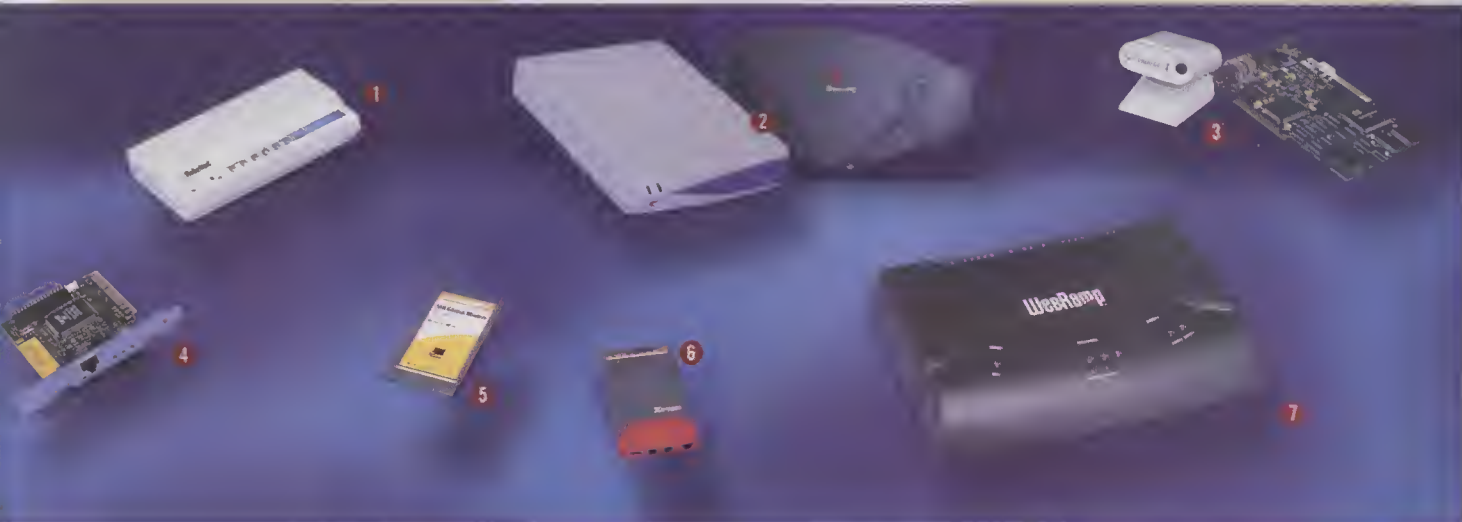
FINALISTS

Bigpicture Video Phone Get inexpensive videoconferencing over regular phone lines.

3Com / (800) 342-5877 / \$159 est. street price / InfoLink No. 724

TeamStation System 4.0 A videoconferencing and presentation system in one.

Intel Corp. / (800) 538-3373 / starts at \$9,999 est. street price / InfoLink No. 725



NETWORK ADAPTER

4 **Fast Ether-Link XL PCI TX 10/100 Network Interface Card**

Easy to install, fast and reliable. At \$89, this card is not only the performance leader, it's also the low-cost leader.

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FINALISTS

NetGear FA 310TX When you need just the basics.

NetGear / (888) 638-4327 / \$29 est. street price / InfoLink No. 727

Pro/100+ PCI Adapter For super-reliable connections.

Intel / (800) 538-3373 / \$99 est. street price / InfoLink No. 728

PC CARD MODEM

5 **Megahertz 56K Global Modem** This V.90

modem gives you fast analog connections, and its onboard digital line guard protects you from PBX damage.

3Com / (800) 638-3266 / \$269 est. street price / Enter 729 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Jack of Spades Skip the hassles of PBX connections entirely.

Ositech Communications / (888) 674-8324 / \$315 est. street price / InfoLink No. 730

Gold Card Global 56K A globe-friendly, high-speed performer.

Psiom Dacom / (800) 547-7466 / \$199 est. street price / InfoLink No. 731

PC CARD NETWORK ADAPTER

6 **RealPort Card-Bus Ethernet 10/100+Modem**

56 Never lose or break a cable connector again with RealPort. Plug your connection right into the card.

Xircom / (800) 438-4526 / \$399 est. street price / Enter 732 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Megahertz 10/100 LAN Card-Bus PC Card The choice for trouble-free networking.

3Com / (800) 638-3266 / \$179 est. street price / InfoLink No. 733

Seven of Spades Trumpcard Great usability and a great price.

Ositech Communications / (888) 674-8324 / \$149 est. street price / InfoLink No. 734

NETWORK HUB/ROUTER

7 **WebRamp 300e** A powerful

Ethernet router and four-port hub that brings Internet access to everyone on your LAN. Plus, quick-start features such as the Connection Wizard make setup simple.

Ramp Networks / (888) 726-7638 / \$499 est. street price / Enter 735 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Matrox iSwitch Internet access plus an eight-port Ethernet switch.

Matrox Networks / (800) 837-3611 / \$549 est. street price / InfoLink No. 736

OfficeConnect 56K LAN

Modem Set it up in 15 minutes or your money back.

3Com / (800) 638-3266 / \$349 est. street price / InfoLink No. 737



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as you are at night.




MouseMan® Wheel. With its melt-in-your-hand shape and four conveniently placed buttons, it's designed to make you as comfortable at your computer as you are in that other place you spend so much time. Only difference is, you'll be a lot more productive. That's because it's also designed for control. Its innovative scroll wheel lets you easily zoom and scroll in Windows® 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT 4.0 applications, or on the Internet. Once you pick one up, you'll never put it down.

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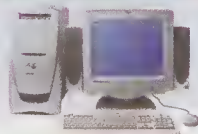
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BUILT FOR YOU



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\$1,599 (with Monitor)
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- AMD-K6®-2/400 processor with 3DNow!™ Technology
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- 5X DVD-RDM Drive⁵
- 1.5Mbps Digital DSL Modem (G.Lite/56K V.90)³
- 2X AGP ATI 3D Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- Microsoft® Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows®9B
- Compaq V720 17" Monitor (15.9" V/A)
- JBL Pro Speakers

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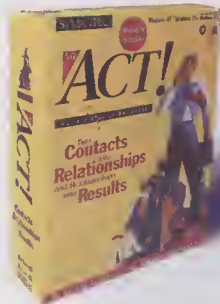
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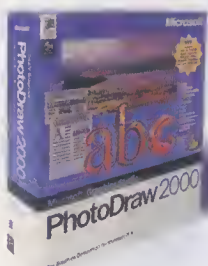
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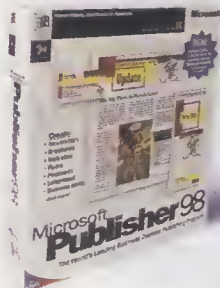
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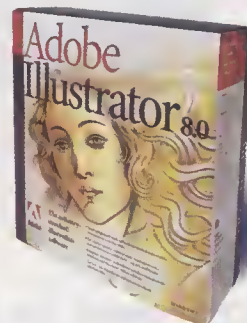
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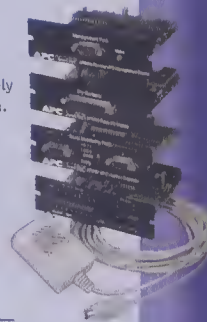
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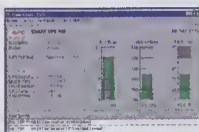


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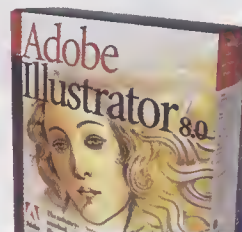
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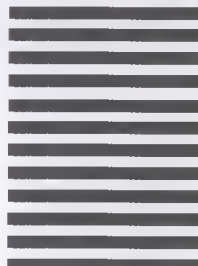
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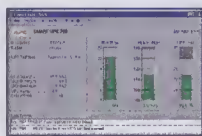
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Five years into business, and growing at 25% to 55% per year, Fran's needed a solution to help it integrate financial reporting with its ever-expanding manufacturing operations. Enter: ACCPAC. With hundreds of thousands of active customers, ACCPAC is the leader in implementing tailor-made financial and business management solutions that address industry-specific needs.

In 1997, Fran's migrated to ACCPAC for Windows, the most advanced financial and business management solution on the market. ACCPAC for Windows seamlessly integrates with the applications you use most, including Microsoft Office, for easy automation of otherwise time-consuming tasks

from managing budgets to building presentations. ACCPAC for Windows even gives you the tools you need to bring your business to the Net.

Today, ACCPAC for Windows links Fran's entire operation, from accounting and manufacturing to marketing and distribution. And it's boosting productivity and enabling Fran's to track vital data, streamline processes, and make better-informed business decisions that improve the bottom line, not just manage it.

Which all leads to a very tasty question:

What will ACCPAC for Windows do for you?

To find out, visit us at www.accpac.com or call 1.800.808.7000.

Don't Just Manage The Bottom Line...

Improve It!



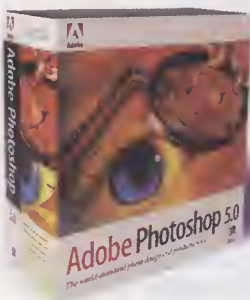
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Infolink 101 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

added color management, plus new features aimed at smoother workflow. You'll also appreciate the multiple levels of undo and redo you get through the new History palette.

Adobe Systems / (800) 492-3623 / \$649 est. street price / Enter 790 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

MetaCreations Painter 5.5 Web Edition So many brushes and special

effects, so little time...

MetaCreations Corp. / (800) 846-0111 / \$299 est. street price / InfoLink No. 791

Paint Shop Pro 5 A full-featured image editor for peanuts.

JASC Software / (800) 622-2793 / \$69 est. street price / InfoLink No. 792

PERSONAL IMAGE EDITOR

MGI PhotoSuite II It looks like a browser, feels like a browser, and is a browser. But it's mainly an image editor. Flawless Web integration makes it a snap to grab pictures from the Internet and then drop them directly into the photo library for editing and touch-ups. PhotoSuite II is jam-packed with cool effects and almost every image-editing tool you can dream of, yet is still affordable and incredibly easy to use.

MGI Software Corp. / (888) 644-7638 /

\$50 est. street price / Enter 793 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

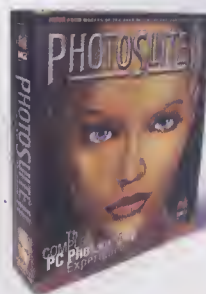
FINALISTS

Adobe PhotoDeluxe Business Edition Powerful image editing and content, and with lots of hand-holding.

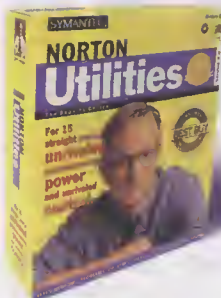
Adobe Systems / (800) 888-6293 / \$49 est. street price / InfoLink No. 794

Microsoft Graphics Studio Picture It 99 Fun features make it great for experimenting with snapshots.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / \$50 est. street price / InfoLink No. 795



SOFTWARE SYSTEM & NETWORK TOOLS



SYSTEM UTILITY

Norton Utilities 3.0 for Windows 95 You can't make Windows perfect, but at least you can fix problems when they pop up—with Norton Utilities 3.0. The latest version gives you crash protection, Registry cleansing, and online updates—everything you need to detect, analyze, and repair those nitty-gritty problems. Plus Norton helps you speed up your system for peak performance.

Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$79 est. street price / Enter 796 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Check-It 98 Diagnostic Suite Toolkit System on the fritz? Find out why with this troubleshooting tool.

Touchstone Software / (800) 932-5566 / \$129 est. street price / InfoLink No. 797

Nuts & Bolts Deluxe Tune up, clean up, and speed up your system with ease.

Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / \$59 est. street price / InfoLink No. 798

NETWORK UTILITY

LANdesk Management Suite 6.1 You've got NetWare. You've got NT. You've got a dozen far-flung LANs. You need LANdesk. Nothing else lets you remotely manage, maintain, and protect your network assets more easily. LANdesk is a great way to automatically distribute software too.

Intel Corp. / (800) 982-2130 / starts at \$62 per desktop in quantities of 100, est. street price / Enter 799 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Desktop Management Suite 3.0.1 Powerful metering and monitoring to keep site licensing in check.

Seagate Software / (800) 327-2232 / starts at \$50 per node in quantities of 50, est. street price / InfoLink No. 800

NetworkCharter Pro The easy visual way to design, configure, and troubleshoot your network.

Micrografx / (800) 733-3729 / \$995 est. street price / InfoLink No. 801



ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

McAfee VirusScan 4.0 Immunize your system from nasty bugs and vexing viruses with the best cure money can buy. With unbeatable scanning and online updates, VirusScan protects your PC from infected Internet downloads, e-mail attachments, and shared files.

Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 802 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Norton AntiVirus 5.0 Sniff out, quarantine, and eliminate viruses from your system forever.

Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$49 est. street price / InfoLink No. 803

PC-cillin Anti-Virus 3.0 Smart Monitor keeps an eagle eye out for viruses before they wreak havoc.

TrendMicro / (800) 932-5566 / \$44 est. street price / InfoLink No. 804

OCR

OmniPage Pro 8.0 Don't retype those documents—scan them in and let OmniPage take care of the rest. It's OCR that really works, with nearly 100 percent accuracy. OmniPage even makes quick work of hard-to-scan documents.



Caere Corp. / (800) 736-5735 ext. 110 / \$499 est. street price / Enter 805 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Presto OCR 3.0 The best choice for OCR on a budget.

NewSoft America / (800) 436-4365 / \$49 est. street price / InfoLink No. 806

TextBridge Pro 98 The easy way to get photos and paper into your PC—pronto.

ScanSoft, a Xerox Company / (800) 842-0024 / \$79 est. street price / InfoLink No. 807

DOCUMENT MANAGER

Pagis Pro 2.0 Stop dreaming of the paperless office and get Pagis Pro. It includes a flexible scanning interface for documents and photos, powerful search options, and smart features that tame even the most complex document.

ScanSoft, a Xerox Company / (800) 842-0024 / \$99 est. street price / Enter 808 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

OmniForm 3.0 Dump your typewriter. Fill out, customize, and store forms on your PC instead.

Caere Corp. / (800) 736-5735 / \$149 est. street price / InfoLink No. 809

PaperPort Scanner Suite Full-strength document management made drag-and-drop easy.

Visioneer / (800) 787-7007 / \$80 est. street price / InfoLink No. 810

SECURITY AND PRIVACY

PGP Personal Privacy 6.0 Stop snoops—whether they're the competition or your coworkers. PGP keeps your secrets secret with a two-key system that not only protects your electronic correspondence and data but also ensures the receiver that it's authentically yours.

Network Associates / (800) 332-9966 / \$29 est. street price / Enter 811 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



FINALISTS

Anonymizer Surfing Protect your identity from Web snoops with this anonymous surfing tool.

Anonymizer / www.anonymizer.com / \$15 for three months unlimited service / InfoLink No. 812

SecureWin Desktop 2.0 Keep your data locked up tight with this PC guard.

SecureWin Technologies / (800) 364-0692 / \$50 est. street price / InfoLink No. 813

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT



Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition The only Windows development tool you need. Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition includes more than a half-dozen of the latest versions of Microsoft's best-of-breed development tools. You'll find the 6.0 versions of Visual Basic, Visual FoxPro,

Visual J++, Visual C++, and Visual InterDev. You also get Visual SourceSafe and BackOffice Server Developer Edition, rounding out a hefty suite that's unrivaled in power and features at any price.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 621-7930 dept. A334DS / \$1,619 est. street price / Enter 814 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

InstallShield Professional 5.0 Build bulletproof installation wrappers for your custom Windows applications.

InstallShield Software Corp. / (800) 374-4353 / \$795 list price per license / InfoLink No. 815

Visual Cafe for Java, Database Development Edition 2.5 The best way to mix Java and JavaBeans into your development efforts.

Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$800 est. street price / InfoLink No. 816

MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT



Director 6.5 Multimedia Studio The leader in multimedia development just keeps getting better. Macromedia adds powerful new features to version 6.5 of Multimedia Studio, including support for QuickTime 3.0, QuickTime VR, PowerPoint import, and Java export. With its support for Flash animation and ActiveX controls, you're covered for the Web too.

Macromedia / (800) 457-1774 / \$999 est. street price / Enter 817 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

ThingMaker Jazz up your Web site with Things—small, amusing multimedia animations.

Parable / (617) 796-0860 / \$40 est. street price / InfoLink No. 818

ToolBook II Assistant 6.5 Your business needs training, and here's the easy way to create, set up, and administer it—over the Web.

Asymetrix Learning Systems / (800) 448-6543 / \$1,095 est. street price / InfoLink No. 819

"When will I
finally get the
affordable, high-speed internet access
I was promised?



"Right



How long have YOU been waiting?

If you've been holding out for the cable or telephone company to bring high-speed Internet access to your neighborhood, chances are it's been a while. Which is a shame, because if you'd chosen DirecPC, you could be surfing at up to 400 Kbps **right now**. That's up to 14 times faster than a standard 28.8 modem and almost three times faster than an ISDN line.

It's easy.

How do you get started? Just visit us at www.direcpc.com to find a retailer near you. If you can't find a store in the neighborhood, call us at 1-800-DIRECPC. We'll send you your dish, satellite modem, software and everything else you need. We

HARDWARE
AS LOW AS

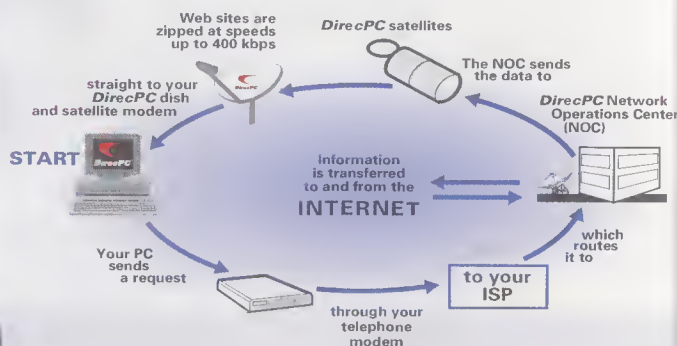
\$199



can arrange professional installation for you, too. Either way, getting started is just a phone call or a mouse click away.

How does it work?

The engineers at Hughes figured out that the real bottleneck in the speed of the Internet wasn't the request **out** to the Web — telephone modems handle that just fine. Everything slows down when the Web tries to use the telephone system to send you **back** the media-rich information you requested. So, we use a much faster satellite connection for sending you the Web content you want. Check out the diagram — this is the system that makes DirecPC the fastest Internet access available nationwide.



now."

DirecPC gets pushy.

Sure, you love the idea of surfing the Web at up to 400 Kbps. But what if you could get your favorite Web sites and Usenet Newsgroups delivered straight into your PC by satellite — **automatically**, without even having to tie up your phone line to ask for them? That's just what DirecPC's Turbo WebCast™ and Turbo NewsCast™ services do — so you're never behind on the news and information that's important to you. The best thing about these two services? They're **free** with your paid subscription to any Turbo Internet™ service package.



Want TV with that?

We know what you're thinking: "If I'm going to put a dish on my roof, I might as well sign up for one of those satellite TV services, too." We agree! That's why, for a few dollars more, you can upgrade to our DirecDuo dish with your DirecPC satellite modem. Add a Hughes-brand DSS® receiver (or the DSS receiver you already own), and you get almost 200 channels of crystal-clear satellite TV from DIRECTV® as well as Turbo Internet from DirecPC. Just call 1-800-DIRECPC or stop by www.direcpc.com to find out more.



SERVICE
AS LOW AS

\$19⁹⁹
MO.

The good news.

No other high-speed Internet access provider offers so much for so little. Take a close look at our service pricing — we're sure you'll find a package you like.

You already know how great the Internet is — you're just looking for a way to go faster. DirecPC is the fastest Internet access available nationwide. It's affordable, and it's available everywhere. So, if you're still plugging away with an old-fashioned telephone modem, you need to ask yourself.

What are you waiting for?

Service Plan Details	Residential		Business
Name of Service Plan	Executive Surfer	Family Surfer	Office Surfer
Price of Service Plan (including ISP)	\$29.99/Month	\$49.99/Month	\$129.99/Month
Price of Service Plan (Without ISP)	\$19.99/Month	\$34.99/Month	\$109.99/Month
Hours of Service (Availability)	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day
On-Line Time (Hours of usage for Turbo Internet)	25 Hours/Month	100 Hours/Month	200 Hours/Month
Additional Hourly Rate (Including ISP)	\$1.99/Hour	\$1.99/Hour	\$1.99/Hour
Additional Hourly Rate (Without ISP)	\$.99/Hour	\$.99/Hour	\$.99/Hour
DirecPC Services			
Turbo Webcast: Broadcast delivery of popular Websites to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo Newscast: Broadcast delivery of up to 30,000 Usenet Newsgroups to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo Internet: Fully interactive access to the Internet at speeds up to 400Kbps	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time
Free E-mail Accounts	1	1	4
Networking (Number of Seats)	N/A	N/A	4

1 (800) DIRECPC
WWW.DIRECPC.COM



\$199 hardware price after DirecPC rebate. New Credit card customers only. Expires 12/31/98. \$100 rebate paid to credit card upon service activation. 12-month commitment to service required. \$100 cancellation fee charged to credit card if service canceled within 12 months. Cannot be combined with other DirecPC promotions. Executive Surfer and Family Surfer packages for single-user systems only and subject to Fair Access Policy and Subscriber Agreement. Speeds may vary. Not available in Alaska or Hawaii; requires line of sight to the southern sky.
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Infotlink 345 at: www.pccomputing.com/infotlink

MVP

INTERNET

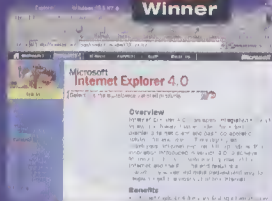
Here's where the stars really come out. While the Internet has become a part of every application and utility, it's also the industry's brightest hotbed for innovation.

The basics are still evolving, with endless browser wars, search engines changing into sticky do-it-all portals, and development and site

management tools finally getting easy and powerful.

Still, the area with the biggest potential by far is e-commerce. Led by an explosion of travel, banking and financial services, and online shopping, it promises to rewrite all the rules for buying and selling—and for dealing with customers and suppliers. We can't wait.

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PC Computing
Winner



WEB BROWSER

Internet Explorer 4.01 The best browser you can't buy is also our usability champion, making fast, easy work of Web navigation. Version 4.01 adds a host of new features, including Outlook Express, FrontPage Express, Media Player, and NetMeeting. It also includes support for Dynamic HTML, ActiveX, and Java.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / free / Enter 831 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Communicator 4.07 Browser, e-mail, and groupware in one. Best of all, now it's free.

Netscape Communications Corp. / (800) 638-7483 / free / InfoLink No. 832

Opera 3.2.1 Finally: an easy-to-use browser alternative with special features worth paying for.

Opera Software / (216) 229 4382 / \$35 est. street price / InfoLink No. 833

WEB/INTERNET UTILITY

Infoseek Express by Infoseek

Today's Web browsers do plenty, but they don't do everything. That's why you need Infoseek Express, the clever search utility you can't live without. It runs within your browser and hits multiple search engines with your query—simultaneously—bringing back fast, accurate results.

Infoseek / (800) 781-4636 / free / Enter 834 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

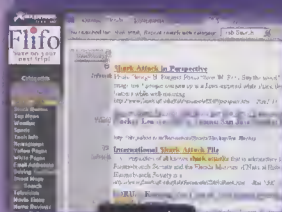
FINALISTS

Ding Better than e-mail: powerful Java-based chat utility for real-time collaboration.

Activeverse / (800) 235-9274 / \$29 est. street price / InfoLink No. 835

SpamKiller 2.2 Stop junk e-mail messages dead in their tracks with this indispensable utility.

Novasoft / (888) 201-7131 / \$29 est. street price / InfoLink No. 836



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SEARCH ENGINE

Hotbot Want to double your Internet satisfaction in 10 seconds? Open your browser options and set your default home page to Hotbot. It's fast, accurate, and all-inclusive. Whether you're looking for images, audio, video, or Java applets, you'll zero in on exactly what you need with Hotbot's versatile advanced queries.

Wired Digital / www.hotbot.com / free / Enter 837 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

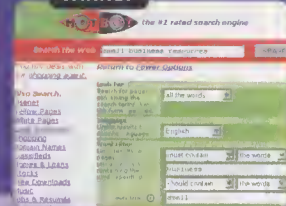
Excite Personalize your search engine with My News, My Stocks, My Weather, and more.

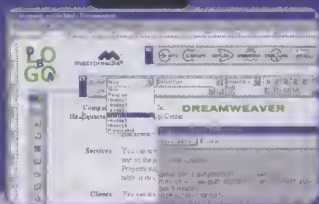
Excite / www.excite.com / free / InfoLink No. 838

Yahoo A great starting point with the best hierarchical index you'll find online.

Yahoo / www.yahoo.com / free / InfoLink No. 839

MVP
PC Computing
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WEB PUBLISHER

Dreamweaver 1.2 Creating Web pages with an easy visual tool used to mean giving up clean, standard HTML code. Not anymore, thanks to Dreamweaver 1.2. This letter-perfect visual-authoring tool for Web pros works seamlessly with other Macromedia products. Stay tuned for Dreamweaver 2.0 with XML support.

Macromedia / (800) 945-9075 / \$299 est. street price / Enter 843 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Fusion 3.0 A smart way to design, create, edit, and manage large sites.

NetObjects / (888) 482-3200 / \$295 est. street price / InfoLink No. 844

FrontPage 98 Hand-holding wizards make site creation easy for novices. Web pros: Look for FrontPage 2000 coming soon.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / \$149 est. street price / InfoLink No. 845

WEB DEVELOPMENT

RealNetworks Interactive Bundle

Take your Web site to the next level with streaming audio and video. Thanks to RealNetworks Interactive Bundle, it's never been easier. You get MediaPalette for converting your existing media to the Real format; T.A.G. for making your content interactive; and RealPublisher, the ultimate tool for adding audio and video to your Web site.

RealNetworks / (800) 632-8920 / \$249 est. street price / Enter 840 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

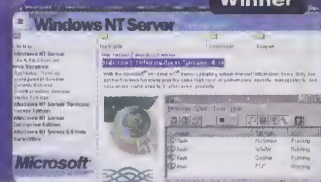
FINALISTS

LivePicture Reality Studio The best way to build high-resolution, photorealistic panoramas.

LivePicture / (800) 724-7900 / \$499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 841

Fireworks Optimize, edit, and process your graphics for the Web in a jiffy.

Macromedia / (800) 457-1774 / \$299 est. street price / InfoLink No. 842



WEB SERVER SOFTWARE

Internet Information Server 4.0

If you've got a copy of Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0, the best Web server is already yours—free. Internet Information Server 4.0 shines with one-button setup, easy management, a handy Index Server, and support for Active Server Pages.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / free with Windows NT Server 4.0 / Enter 846 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Apache Server Project Apache 1.3.2

The best reason to switch to Linux. **Apache** / www.apache.org / free / InfoLink No. 847

Enterprise Server Standard Edition

Invest in a fine mix of features and performance.

Netscape Communications Corp. / (800) 638-7483 / \$1,295 est. street price / InfoLink No. 848

SITE MANAGEMENT

HitList Professional 4.0 You've got to do more than just manage broken links to make your site a success. You need to study your site's traffic patterns. It's easy with HitList. Hundreds of ready-made reports make HitList a fast way to measure site usability and analyze hit rates.

Marketwave / (800) 521-8176 / Enter 849 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Linkbot Pro/NetIntellect Bundle

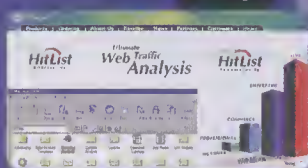
A dynamic duo with Tetranet Linkbot Pro and WebManage NetIntellect.

Tetranet Software / (888) 245-5550 / \$349 est. street price / InfoLink No. 850

WebTrends Professional Suite 2.1

Take the guesswork out of site traffic analysis and boost your page requests too.

WebTrends / (888) 932-8736 / \$499 est. street price / InfoLink No. 851





FINANCIAL SERVICE

Quicken.com Get richer quicker—without spending a dime. Quicken.com offers all its financial information and services free. It's your broker, CPA, insurance agent, and Harvard MBA in one. You can also track investments and analyze your portfolio.

Intuit / www.quicken.com / free / Enter 852 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

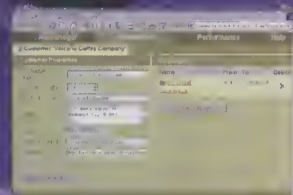
FINALISTS

E*Trade The best online broker gets smarter and more polished.

E*Trade Group / www.etrade.com; (800) 786-2575 / \$15 per trade / InfoLink No. 853

WSJ Interactive Edition An essential read for anyone in business.

Dow Jones / (800) 369-2834 / \$49; \$29 for Wall Street Journal subscribers, est. street prices / InfoLink No. 854



BANKING SERVICE

Quicken Direct If Intuit ever starts an Internet bank, we'll be the first in line to open an account. Quicken 99 integrates online banking—plus investments, financial planning, and taxes—so seamlessly you'd never know you were on the Web.

Intuit / (800) 446-8848 / \$60 est. street price / Enter 855 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Bank of America Online Excellent small-business banking via Business Connect.

BankAmerica Corp. / www.bankamerica.com / free / InfoLink No. 856

Wells Fargo Online Banking Check balances, transfer money, and more.

Wells Fargo Bank / (800) 956-4442 / free with account balance of \$5,000 or more / InfoLink No. 857

SHOPPING SERVICE

Dell Direct Web Site

Dell may not have invented the concept of build-to-order computer systems, but it was the first to bring it to the Web in a big way. And it's still the best place to buy top-quality, high-performance PCs directly online.

Dell / www.dell.com / free / Enter 861 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

CompareNet Stave off sales vampires with comparative product information.

CompareNet / www.comparenet.com / free / InfoLink No. 862

eBay Everything and the kitchen sink is for sale on this unsurpassed auction site.

eBay / www.ebay.com / free / InfoLink No. 863



COMMERCE SERVICE

Yahoo Store Successful Web selling starts here. Scoop up some of the bucks consumers are throwing at online merchants by the billions—without spending a fortune yourself. Amazingly painless and flexible.

Yahoo / (408) 616-3801 / \$100 per month for up to 50 items; \$300 per month for up to 1,000 items, direct prices / Enter 864 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

iCat Commerce Online Set up a free Web store in less than 15 minutes.

iCat / (888) 289-4228 / free for up to 10 items; \$50 per month for 11 to 50 items; \$350 per month for 3,000 items, est. street prices / InfoLink No. 865

Online Merchant Got an hour? Time enough to set up shop on the Web.

Alpha Software / (800) 451-1018 ext. 117 / \$99 est. street price / InfoLink No. 866



TRAVEL SERVICE

Biztravel.com Fire your travel agent. Biztravel tracks your frequent-flyer and stayer accounts and lets you create detailed travel profiles—so you'll never get stuck in the middle seat or be forced to eat the meat lovers' special again. And the price is unbeatable.

Biztravel / www.biztravel.com; (800) 835-6483 / free / Enter 870 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Expedia Plan the perfect vacation without picking up the phone.

Microsoft Corp. / expedia.msn.com; (800) 936-4500 / free / InfoLink No. 871

Travelocity Saves you time and money. It's unmatched at uncovering low fares.

Sabre Interactive, a division of the Sabre Group / www.travelocity.com / free / InfoLink No. 872

COMMERCE SERVER SOFTWARE

Site Server 3.0 Commerce Edition Microsoft bundles everything you need to hawk your wares online. Choose from FrontPage or Visual InterDev to design your site. Then scan for broken links and outdated information. Advanced search features send your customers to the right place every time.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / \$3,499 est. street price / Enter 868 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Domino.Merchant Server Pack 2.0 No-hassle setup for your Web storefront.

Lotus Development Corp. / (800) 786-2575 / \$3,495 est. street price / InfoLink No. 859

Net.Commerce Start 3.0 Wizards walk you through store creation. Great for non-NT shops.

IBM Corp. / (800) 426-2255 / \$4,999 est. street price / InfoLink No. 860

NATIONAL ISP

MindSpring It's a no-brainer for Internet access and small-biz Web hosting. Choose from V.90 dial-up or cable modem options—and add services as you go.

MindSpring Enterprises / (800) 719-4332 / \$25 setup fee, \$14.95 for 20 hours, \$19.95 for unlimited access / Enter 867 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

EarthLink Sprint Total Access There's an EarthLink number wherever you go.

EarthLink Network / (800) 395-8425 / \$25 setup fee (waived if you sign up on the Web), \$19.95 for unlimited Internet access / InfoLink No. 868

UUNet Forget busy signals with UUNet.

UUNet, an MCI WorldCom company / (800) 488-6384 / starts at \$30 per month for 25 hours / InfoLink No. 869



1. Start image editing software
2. Choose "file acquire"
3. Pre-scan page
4. Set scan area
5. Set resolution
6. Set scan mode
7. Scan page
8. Close TWAIN
9. Save file
10. Close image editing application
11. Start e-mail package
12. Start new message
13. Choose "attach file"
14. Locate saved file on hard disk



How to scan and e-mail
a photo from their scanner.

How to do it
from ours.

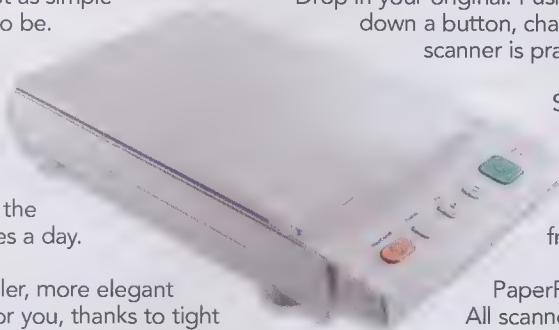
One small step for scanners. 13 fewer steps for you.

Let's face it, most scanners are not as simple
as they are supposed to be.

Drag and drop, plug and play,
billions of colors, and all the other
terms and specs don't make a bit of
difference when all you want to do is
e-mail a photo, scan a page of text
into your word-processor or any of the
other tasks you do countless times a day.

PaperPort OneTouch offers a simpler, more elegant
solution. It does most of the work for you, thanks to tight
integration with our PaperPort software.

Drop in your original. Push a button. It's that easy. Hold
down a button, change a few settings, and your
scanner is practically a whole new machine.



Sure, we have all the specs and
features you expect in a
quality scanner. But we
think you'll be much more
impressed with those five
friendly buttons up front.

PaperPort OneTouch.
All scanners should be this simple.

PAPERPORT ONETOUCH 5300 SCANNER

300x600 dpi optical resolution
36-bit color (internal)
\$99 after mail-in rebate

PAPERPORT ONETOUCH SCANNER

600x1200 dpi optical resolution
36-bit color (internal)
\$169.99 after mail-in rebate

- Printer port pass-through design • Lift-off lid • Includes PaperPort software
- Windows 95/98/NT 4.0 compatible



PaperPort OneTouch Scanner



PaperPort OneTouch Scanner

Visit our website at pcc.visioneer.com

*Estimated U.S. street price after \$30 mail-in rebate. Rebate valid in the U.S. and Canada at participating resellers. © 1998 Visioneer, Inc.

Infolink 242 or: www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Trouble mounting?

In a world where Windows and Macintosh incompatibility causes endless problems, DataViz offers a little help. MacOpener®. A convenient utility that surmounts all obstacles when your PC needs to read, write and format Macintosh disks.

With MacOpener installed on your PC, reading and writing files on a Mac-formatted disk, cartridge or CD is a breeze. MacOpener lets you open the disk on your PC just as if it were formatted for Windows. You can then view the contents and copy files to and from the disk from any Windows application. MacOpener automatically adds the right PC extension to Macintosh files, so you can launch a Windows application by simply clicking on the file. It even lets you format the Mac disk just as if it were a PC disk. How's that for trouble free performance?

At DataViz, solving PC to Mac compatibility problems is our business. As well as MacOpener, we offer Conversions Plus®, the premier file conversion program that translates hundreds of different file formats between PC applications or Macintosh and PC applications. Quickly and accurately. And offers over 1,000 file translation combinations, to solve almost any file conversion needs.

And discover for yourself that with DataViz, no file compatibility problems are insurmountable.

For answers to all your Mac to PC disk and file compatibility needs, call us at 1-800-270-0030 Ext 155 or visit our web site at <http://www.dataviz.com/pcc>



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Infolink 155 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

We can't say what applications she'll be using in five years.

We can, however, predict the monitor.



Software goes out of date. CPUs are superseded.

OUR NEW SHORT-DEPTH MULTISYNC E750
COMPLETES THE E SERIES FAMILY.

In the face of nearly chaotic change, it's reassuring to know you can count on MultiSync® E Series monitors for years to come. Take a look. Our CromoClear™ and dot trio CRTs deliver all the contrast, sharpness and color-saturation you need for demanding applications. But what isn't so apparent is the reliability and flexibility we build into each monitor. Refresh rates up to 120 Hz, PC and Macintosh compatibility and

	MultiSync E500™	MultiSync E750™	MultiSync E900+™	MultiSync E1100+™
Viewable Image Area	13.8"	16.0"	18.0"	19.8"
CRT	CromoClear	Short-depth CromoClear	Microfilter™ Dot Trio	Microfilter™ Dot Trio
Dot Pitch	0.25mm mask	0.25mm mask	0.26mm dot 0.22mm horizontal	0.28mm dot 0.24mm horizontal
Maximum Resolution	1280 x 1024 @ 65Hz	1600 x 1200 @ 73Hz	1600 x 1200 @ 77Hz	1600 x 1200 @ 77Hz

the optional IntelliBase™ Series* monitor bases mean they'll grow as your needs change. And for added security, they're backed by a three-year warranty. MultiSync E Series monitors. With longevity like this, you might just retire before your monitors do.

NEC

IntelliBase
Intelligent USB and audio solutions

NEC Technologies

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Infolink 236 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

MVP

THE DIGITAL



The entire world is going digital, and fast. Telephone systems are merging with networks. Copiers, fax machines, and modems are becoming additional devices that hang off our LANs. And small networks are getting simpler to set up and maintain.

Even better, it's never been easier to stay connected when we're away from our desks. A new crop of sophisticated phones and pagers can take messages, forward calls, even surf the Web. And GPS devices make it easy to route us to the next appointment across town or in a city we've never visited.

DIGITAL COPIER

1 Xerox XD100 Improve your image with a digital copier. The XD100 pumps out 10 perfectly crisp copies per minute and pulls double duty as a printer—hook it up to your PC and print 8 ppm at 600 dpi. Its small footprint wins points with the SOHO crowd too.

Xerox Corp. / (800) 349-3769 / \$700 est. street price / Enter 886 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Color Copier 145 Skip the service bureau and make your own color copies.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$799 est. street price

Sharp AL 1000 An affordable way to look sharp with the clarity of digital copies.

Sharp Electronics Corp. / (800) 237-4277 / \$600 est. street price / InfoLink No. 887



MULTIFUNCTION FAX/COPIER/PRINTER

2 LaserJet 3100 Your small office can't handle a printer, a copier, a fax machine, and a scanner. Solution? The LaserJet 3100 combines HP's legendary razor-sharp printer output with copying, faxing, and scanning functions that are just as good as with stand-alone devices.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$699 est. street price

FINALISTS

Brother MFC-4650 Don't settle for boring black and white. Get color copying, scanning, faxing, and printing for less than you think.

Brother / (800) 284-4329 / \$599 est. street price / InfoLink No. 881

MultiPass L6000 Excellent output and great software at an enticing price.

Canon Computer Systems / (800) 652-2666 / \$599 est. street price / InfoLink No. 882



OFFICE



DIGITAL FAX

3 Panafax UF-770i Networked printing? Old news. Plug this multifunction communications center into your LAN for networked printing plus faxing and scanning. Send your faxes over the Internet as e-mail attachments at the push of a button and slash your long-distance bills.

Panasonic / (800) 435-4327 / \$3,695 est. street price / Enter 891 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

9100C Digital Sender Digitally send paper documents to any e-mail address or fax number.

Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$2,999 est. street price

RightFax Server 5.2 Faxing for everyone on your LAN—right from their desktops.

RightFax / (888) 320-7778 / \$1,495 est. street price / InfoLink No. 892



SMALL BUSINESS NETWORK

4 HomeRun No more messy, expensive cabling. With HomeRun, every phone jack in your business becomes a network node that supports up to 25 PCs, peripherals, and other devices. Best of all, your 1Mbps network coexists peacefully with your phone lines so there's nothing to lose.

Tut Systems / (800) 998-4888 / \$139 for HR1000 PCI NIC, \$169 for HR1000T, est. street prices / Enter 883 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

PassPort Networking doesn't get any easier. Plug into your electrical outlets and go.

Intelogis / (877) 468-3564 / \$200 est. street price / InfoLink No. 884

RadioLAN/10 Cut the cord and go wireless at Ethernet speeds.

RadioLAN / (888) 272-3465 / \$349 est. street price for ISA CardLink for desktop PCs / InfoLink No. 885



TELEPHONY

5 Concero Switchboard Simply plug phones, a fax machine, your PC, and a phone line into the Concero. Presto! Instant PBX. Features like on-hold music, call forwarding, and conference calling give your small business a professional edge.

Centrepont Technologies / (888) 332-9322 / \$495 est. street price / Enter 888 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

Telecom 2000 Cure your multiple-network headaches by putting a PBX on your LAN or WAN.

eNet / (888) 366-3638 / Starting at \$1,695 est. street price / InfoLink No. 889



NetPhone 2.4 Perfect for growing companies that want to hook up their PCs and phones.

NetPhone / (800) 991-2529 / \$5,800 est. street price for 18-extension, 6-trunk ISA card and server software / InfoLink No. 890



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1 Door-to-Door Copilot Now you'll always know where you're going. The in-car navigation system works on your portable computer, with two-way voice-activated technology that allows hands-free operation.

TravRoute / (888) 872-8768 / \$199 est. street price / Enter 893 at www.pccomputing.com

FINALISTS

EarthMate Easy navigation for your notebook or handheld.

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Garmin GPS III Foolproof directions in the palm of your hand.

Garmin Int'l / (800) 800-1020 / \$300 est. street price / InfoLink No. 895

PAGER

2 AccessLink II The smallest two-way messaging device you can buy. It lets you send and receive e-mail and organize everything with its folder-based interface.

Glenayre Wireless / (800) 239-4735 / \$195 est. street price / Enter 896 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

FINALISTS

PageFinder 1500 A step ahead of you with confirmed message delivery and programmed replies.

Motorola / (800) 548-9954 / \$219 est. street price / InfoLink No. 897

PortaMP 7000 Alpha Managing messages is a snap with its Jog Dial.

Sony Electronics / (800) 578-7669 / \$100 est. street price / InfoLink No. 898

MOBILE OFFICE

3 D1000 Digital Voice Recorder The ultimate assistant, this pocket-size device lets you give dictation on the go. Then convert your musings to text with the included IBM ViaVoice Transcription.

Olympus / (800) 622-6372 / \$299 est. street price / Enter 902 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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Canon BJC-80 Quality printing anywhere thanks to an IR port.

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Cross Pen Computing Group / (800) 510-9660 / \$399 est. street price / InfoLink No. 904

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StarTAC 6500 One of the smallest, lightest (and coolest) phones you can buy.

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We hope you're satisfied.



Well, if you own a

Quantex systems feature the Intel® Pentium® II processor



Today, Quantex is one of the world's largest direct marketers of computer systems, featuring the Intel® Pentium® II processor. And in the last year, Quantex has consistently placed at or near the top in surveys of customer satisfaction and tech support. As well as winning dozens of product rating awards in the most respected publications.

As more businesses and experts say good things about Quantex, you're bound to wonder, "How good can they be?" There's one way to find out.

WOULD QUANTEX OWNERS BUY AGAIN? IN A HEARTBEAT¹.

There's no greater expression of satisfaction than customers who return again and again. For Quantex owners, the intent to repurchase is practically a given. After all, when *PC World* asked—based on reliability and service—whether they'd purchase another Quantex system, the answer was a resounding "Yes."

WOULD YOU BUY AGAIN?

Vendor	Based on Reliability	Based on Service
Micron	★★★★★	★★★★★
Quantex	★★★★★	★★★★
Dell	★★★★★	★★★★
Gateway	★★★★	★★★★
IBM	★★★★	★★★
Compaq	★★★	★★★
HP	★★★	★★★
AST	★★	★★
Acer	★	★

Five star is best possible rating; one star, the worst.
"PC World Reliability and Service Survey—Home PCs" Nov '98
*calculations based on online participants' responses recorded between May 1998 and June 1998.

That puts us ahead of some very big names.

QUANTEX TECH SUPPORT EARNS TOP SCORES FROM THOSE WHO KNOW US BEST—OUR CUSTOMERS.

In the most recent *PC Magazine* study, PC owners rated Quantex a leader for tech support based on their own experiences. For the technical knowledge of our people and the promptness of the resolution, no one beat Quantex. And no one came within 10 points for "tech tried everything to help." Not Dell. Not Micron.

COMPUTER SHOPPER
1997 Direct Channel Achievement Award

PC COMPUTING
1997 Most Valuable Product Award

PC COMPUTING
5 Star Rating (11/98)

PC COMPUTING
5 Star Rating (10/98)

PC WORLD
Best Buy Award (10/98)

PC WORLD
Best Buy Award (9/98)

PC WORLD
#1 Best Buy Award (8/98)

PC WORLD
#1 Best Buy Award (7/98)

¹Results based on a PC World (Nov '98) "Home PCs Reliability and Service Survey" in which Quantex received a 5-Star rating for Buy Again Based on Reliability and 4-Star rating for Buy Again based on Service. Buy again based on reliability—Five stars: 96.4 to 95.1%. Four stars: 93.2 to 91%. Three stars: 86.4 to 86%. Two stars: 84.4 to 81.5%. One star: 77.9 to 72.5%. Buy again based on service—Five stars: 94.1 to 93.8%. Four stars: 90.4 to 86.1%. Three stars: 82 to 75.6%. Two stars: 73.6 to 70%. One star: 60.3 to 60.1%.

Quantex PC you are.



Not Gateway. Not IBM. Not Compaq.

Hey, we may not be a household name yet. So we go the extra mile. And our customers notice it.

QUANTEX SYSTEMS KEEP WINNING. COMPETITION AT A LOSS.

Obviously, it takes a lot more than great support to generate great customer satisfaction. And more than VERY competitive prices. It takes great computers featuring the Intel Pentium® II processor. And Quantex configures them with industry-standard "enhancements" that make Quantex systems regular winners in the "Best Buy" category.

TECH SUPPORT EXPERIENCE

Vendor	Tech was knowledgeable	Tech tried everything to help	Prompt resolution	Got a run-around
Quantex	57%	59%	49%	9%
Micron	56%	47%	43%	9%
Gateway	54%	48%	45%	10%
Dell	54%	43%	49%	10%
IBM	41%	33%	36%	15%
Compaq	37%	30%	30%	17%
Average*	40%	33%	32%	16%

"Service and Reliability Survey," PC Magazine, July 1998

* calculations based on all 25 PC vendors evaluated in the survey.



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PC WORLD
#1 Best Buy
Award (6/98)

**WINDOWS
MAGAZINE**
WINLIST Award
(11/98)

**WINDOWS
MAGAZINE**
WINLIST Award
(10/98)

C|NET ONLINE
Editors' Choice
Award (8/98)

C|NET ONLINE
Editors' Choice
Award (6/98)

PC PORTABLES
Best Buy Award
(3/98)

PC COMPUTING
4-star "Torture Test"
Survivor (4/98)

PC COMPUTING
4-star Rating
(9/98)

*Results based on PC Magazine (July '98) "Service and Reliability Survey" in which Quantex received the highest ratings for its customers' "Tech Support Experience" in 4 out of 5 categories including 'tech was knowledgeable, tech tried everything to help, prompt resolution and got a run-around.' Calculations based on 25 vendors evaluated in the survey.



Systems with better



BETTER MANAGEABILITY MEANS BETTER PRODUCTIVITY FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

Quantex Business Desktops bring enterprise management technology, traditionally implemented by large corporations, to businesses of all sizes—including yours. Built according to industry-standard initiatives such as Wired for Management, DMI 2.0, PC 98, LDCM and ACPI, these desktops are designed to lower your total cost of ownership. They also incorporate capabilities for improved asset management and remote configurations and diagnostics. Plus, our innovative **QSentry Technology** assures unsurpassed confidence and security by constantly monitoring the health of Quantex PCs. If you want to do something more productive, install Quantex Business Desktops. **Starting at just \$999**

TAKE A FLAT APPROACH TO YOUR WORK

Looking to provide your business with a better view? Quantex gives it to you with its state-of-the-art 15" LCD flat-panel monitors with on-screen controls. Engineered with advanced technologies, these active matrix TFT flat-panels produce clear, crisp pictures with bright vivid colors, and include landscape and portrait modes. All this while saving approximately 75% of the desk space and up to 70% of the power used by traditional CRT's. *Available as an upgrade.*



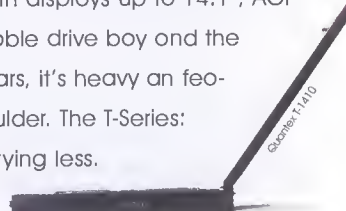
15" LCD Flat Panel

NOT HAPPY STAYING IN ONE PLACE? GREAT!

THE "T" SERIES: TRAVEL LIGHTER AND ARRIVE HAPPIER.

It's time to stop thinking about notebooks as a compromise between mobility and performance. Quantex presents the T-Series Notebook, full-featured power in a lightweight mobile computing solution. It packs huge performance and flexibility into a lean 1.43", 6.4-pound system*, perfect for working on a plane or during an important presentation. With displays up to 14.1", AGP graphics, a single, swappable drive bay and the fastest Pentium® II processors, it's heavy on features but light on your shoulder. The T-Series: **start packing more by carrying less.**

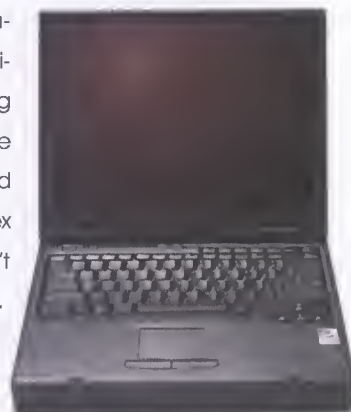
Starting at just \$1999



THE "I" SERIES: A DESKTOP AND NOTEBOOK IN ONE.

Take the best of both worlds and put it into one powerful system. You'll have the Quantex I-Series Notebook, designed to make work easy—and you happy. Rip through projects with fast Pentium® II processors, tons of SDRAM, long-lasting 12-cell Lithium Ion batteries and more. Plus, the built-in dual drive bay design allows for simultaneous drive use and added functionality. And with DVD and an ATI AGP 3D 8MB graphics accelerator, you'll discover incredibly brilliant ways to experience presentations and dynamic multimedia on the stunning 14.1" display. For extreme computing power and performance, the Quantex I-Series Notebook doesn't just replace your desktop. It humbles it.

Starting at just \$2199



Quantex I-1400

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- Business lease: \$35/Mo.
- Intel® Celeron® Processor 333MHz
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 128KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 15" Digital Monitor (13.8" viewable)
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SDRAM
- New Intel Pro 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45 and Wake-On-LAN Technology
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- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service*
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- DSentry Technology (Including Intel LANDesk Client Manager V.3.1)
- Cable Modem Ready / Year 2000 Compliant
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MS OFFICE 97 SBE v2.0 : Word 97 ■ Excel 97 ■ Publisher 98 ■ Outlook 98 ■ Direct Mail Manager ■ Small Business Financial Manager 98 ■ Expedito Streets 98 ■ IE 4.0

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- Pentium® II Processor 350MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/ DSD (15.8" viewable)
- Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT for \$79
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with BMB SDRAM
- New Intel Pro 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45 and Wake-On-LAN Technology
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports / DMI 2.0
- Duantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
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- DSentry Technology (Including Intel LANDesk Client Manager V.3.1)
- Cable Modem Ready / Year 2000 Compliant
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QP6/333 SB-2(w/ Pentium® II Processor).....\$1349
QP6/400 SB-2(w/ Pentium® II Processor).....\$1549

QP6/400 SB-3 \$1649

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- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/DSD & NEC ChromaClear CRT (16.0" viewable; 25 dp; 1600x1200 max. resolution)
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with BMB SDRAM
- New Intel Pro 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45 and Wake-On-LAN Technology
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports / DMI 2.0
- Duantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- Upgrade to MS Office 97 Professional for \$199
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- DSentry Technology (Including Intel LANDesk Client Manager V.3.1)
- Cable Modem Ready/Year 2000 Compliant/Windows 2000 Ready
- Upgrade to 15.0" LCD Flat-Panel Display for \$549

QP6/350 SB-3(w/ Pentium® II Processor).....\$1499
QP6/450 SB-3(w/ Pentium® II Processor).....\$1849

QP6/450 SB-4 \$2099

- Business lease: \$74/Mo.
- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/ DSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
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- New Intel Pro 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45 and Wake-On-LAN Technology
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports / DMI 2.0
- Duantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- Upgrade to MS Office 97 Professional for \$199
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- DSentry Technology (Including Intel LANDesk Client Manager V.3.1)
- Cable Modem Ready/Year 2000 Compliant/Windows 2000 Ready
- Upgrade to 15.0" LCD Flat-Panel Display for \$399

QP6/400 SB-4(w/ Pentium® II Processor).....\$1899

BUSINESS NOTEBOOKS

Quantex T-1310 \$1999

- Business lease: \$70/Mo.
- Pentium® II processor 266MHz
- New Ultra-Thin Design (12.44"x9.84"x1.37")
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4GB Ultra ATA HD
- 56K V.90 Fax/Modem*
- 24X Modular CD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Modular Floppy Drive
- New NeoMagic NM65 128-bit AGP Video
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- USB and Fast IR Ports / Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 98 / Corel Office Suite B
- Duantex Carrying Case
- Year 2000 Compatible
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

Quantex I-1400 \$2199

- Business lease: \$77/Mo.
- Pentium® II processor 266MHz
- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4GB Ultra ATA HD
- 56K V.90 Fax/Modem*
- Removable 24X CD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Floppy Drive
- New ATI Rage Lt Pro 3D AGP Video w/8MB
- New ESS 3D Wavetable Surround Sound and Speakers
- New Long-Lasting 12-Cell Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- USB and Fast IR Ports / Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 98 / Corel Office Suite B
- Duantex Carrying Case
- Year 2000 Compatible
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

I-1400 w/Pentium II processor 300MHz.....\$2499

OPTIONS: Mini-Docking Station \$149 ■ 2nd Lithium Ion Battery \$129 ■ PCMCIA NIC \$129 ■ Quantex Deluxe Carrying case \$99

Quantex T-1400 \$2399

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- Pentium® II processor 300MHz
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- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6GB Ultra ATA HD
- 56K V.90 Fax/Modem*
- 24X Modular CD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Modular Floppy Drive
- New NeoMagic NM65 128-bit AGP Video
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- Mini-Docking Station
- USB and Fast IR Ports / Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 98 / Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- Duantex Carrying Case
- Year 2000 Compatible
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

Quantex I-1411 \$3299

- Business lease: \$110/Mo.
- Pentium® II Processor 300MHz
- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 128MB SDRAM / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6GB Ultra ATA HD
- 56K V.90 Fax/Modem*
- New Removable 2X DVD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Floppy Drive
- New ATI Rage Lt Pro 3D AGP Video w/8MB
- New ESS 3D Wavetable Surround Sound and Speakers
- New Two Long-Lasting 12-Cell Smart Lithium Ion Batteries
- Mini-Docking Station
- USB and Fast IR Ports / Integrated Personal Touchpad
- MS Windows 98 / Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- Duantex Carrying Case
- Year 2000 Compatible
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

I-1411 w/Pentium II processor 266MHz.....\$3099



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SOFTWARE: Corel Office Suite 8 • Internet the City • Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia • Body Works 6.0 • Amazon Trail II • MS Money '97 (pre-loaded only) American Heritage Talking Dictionary • Dr. Solomons Find-Virus (pre-loaded only) • Compton's Reference Collection • MS Internet Explorer 4.0

QP6/350 M-2x \$1399

Business lease: \$49/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 350MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
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- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT for \$79
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- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant

QP6/400 M-2x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1549

QP6/450 M-2x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1749

QP6/400 M-3x \$1649

Business lease: \$58/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 10.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT for \$79
- Toshiba MPACT2 3D Media Accelerator w/8MB RDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant

QP6/350 M-3x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1499

QP6/450 M-3x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1849

QP6/450 M-4x \$1999

Business lease: \$70/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 96MB PC100 SDRAM Memory/512KB Secondary Cache
- 10.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- Intel7400 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Add Altec Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer for \$39

QP6/350 M-4x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1649

QP6/400 M-4x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1799

POWER MULTIMEDIA

QP6/350 SM-1x \$1449

Business lease: \$51/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 350MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
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- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT for \$79
- Intel7400 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant

QP6/400 SM-1x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1599

QP6/400 SM-1xw with Pentium II processor, 10.2GB HD, and 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive.....\$1699

SOFTWARE: MS Office '97 Small Business Edition v2.0 • MS Money '97 (pre-loaded only) • Office Mate • Day Planner Pro • Power Business Plans • Form Designer Pro • Project Manager Pro • Labels Unlimited • Compton's Reference Collection • Dr. Solomons Find-Virus (pre-loaded only) • MS Internet Explorer 4.0

QP6/400 SM-2x \$1799

Business lease: \$63/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 96MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC ChromaClear CRT for \$79
- New 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB
- Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant

QP6/350 SM-2x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1649

QP6/450 SM-2x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1999

QP6/400 SM-3x \$2099

Business lease: \$74/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- New 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB
- Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Upgrade to #9 Revolution IV AGP Video w/32MB for \$49

QP6/350 SM-3x(with Pentium II processor).....\$1949

QP6/450 SM-3x(with Pentium II processor).....\$2299

QP6/450 SM-4x \$2399

Business lease: \$84/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 16GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- New 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB
- Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- New Altec-Lansing AOA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Upgrade to #9 Revolution IV AGP Video w/32MB for \$49

QP6/400 SM-4x(with Pentium II processor).....\$2199

SUPER MULTIMEDIA

QP6/450 M-4x SE \$2149

Business lease: \$77/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- Intel7400 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Add Altec Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer for \$39
- Upgrade to 21" Monitor (20.0" viewable) for \$349

QP6/400 M-4x SE(with Pentium II processor).....\$1949

QP6/450 SM-4x SE \$2799

Business lease: \$98/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 16GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 21" Monitor w/OSD (20.0" viewable), 1600x1200
- New 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB
- Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- New Altec-Lansing ADA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Upgrade to 15.0" LCD Flat-Panel Display for \$149

QP6/400 SM-4x SE(with Pentium II processor).....\$2599

M-SERIES BEST BUY

QP6/450 Best Buy \$1999

Business lease: \$70/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 10.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- New 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB
- Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- Add a Internal Zip Drive for \$79

GAMING BEST BUY

QP6/450 GX-2 \$2399

Business lease: \$84/Mo.

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz/100MHz Front Side Bus
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, 26dp
- Intel7400 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- New 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- Aureal "A30" 3D Positional PCI Sound
- 3Dfx Voodoo2 based 3D Game Accelerator w/12MB
- MS SideWinder Precision Pro Joystick
- New Altec-Lansing ADA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers & subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98 / Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- Activation Game Titles: Battlezone, Heavy Gear Interstate 76 w/Nitro Pack
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant

QP6/400 GX-2(with Pentium II processor).....\$2199



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The

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WHAT A YEAR! SO HOW DO WE CELEBRATE IT?

BY RECALLING THE MOST BIZARRE, ANNOYING, AND JUST PLAIN DUMB THINGS THAT HAPPENED, PUTTING THEM IN A BIG LIST, AND THEN MOVING ON AS FAST AS WE CAN, NEVER LOOKING BACK.

Despite the questionable findings, Prozac maker Eli Lilly quietly began buying small ISPs.

A \$1.5 million study conducted by Carnegie Mellon University determined that spending time on the Internet makes you depressed and lonely. Researchers tracked 169 people who'd never enjoyed being online before—and were forced to spend an hour a

day on the Net for up to two years.

Other than that, we hope you find our Web site very helpful.

"Warning: ... Much of the information presented here may prove to be total fabrication, rumor, or hype." From a disclaimer on the Web-based financial bulletin board Stock-Talk.

Take that, smarmy print journalists.

A fictitious company named Jukt Micronics had

its computers hacked by nonexistent 15-year-old supercracker Ian Restil—an "even more adolescent version of Bill Gates"—in a story fabricated by writer Stephen Glass in the pages of the *New Republic*. Glass's lies were uncovered by reporters from Forbes Digital Tool, a Web site.

AOL immediately began issuing the trio a single paycheck.

Author Michael Wolff was accused of contorting



facts in *Burn Rate*, his nonfiction bestseller about the travails of an online entrepreneur—allegedly combining characteristics of three America Online executives into one composite character.

For the record, we're not weasely, lamebrained idiots

Bill is finally making his mark in mainstream content publishing.



Number of books published in 1998 with Bill Gates in the title: 15. Number of books published in 1998 with rock-group Hanson in the title: 12.

either (but maybe we should have let this obscure name-calling incident blow over quietly).

Itex, a Portland-based online trading firm, made international news after suing 100 users of the Yahoo bulletin boards—whose real identities it did not know—for making defamatory statements about Itex. One

Question: Have U ever met Dr. Zaius from Planet of the Apes?

In late April, Koko the gorilla chatted live with members of America Online in what may or may not have been the first use of AOL chat's facility by a subhuman primate.





BY DON STEINBERG

defendant, known only as Orangemuscats, posted on the message board that Ite's "current management is blind, stupid, and incompetent."

Step 1: Create a portal. Step 2: Convince everybody they need it.

NBC threw down \$5.9 million for a stake in Snap, hoping to build a major Web portal. Disney laid out \$70 million for a stake in Infoseek to create a portal. Microsoft combined several services into the attempted portal MSN.com. Lycos

acquired Tripod for stock worth \$58 million in the raging portal race. And Netscape revamped its corporate strategy, focusing on making its home page, Netcenter, the "leading portal by the year 2000." Despite these and other efforts, you still don't need to go through a portal to get onto the Web.

Yo! Buddy! Where'd you get your license, autobytel.com?

"The middle car of the three split from its



neighbors, changed lanes, and decelerated until it was behind the other two, then changed lanes again to join itself to the end of the platoon, all under fully automatic control." From the California Partners for Advanced Transit and Highways newsletter, describing a June demonstration in which three computer-controlled Buick LeSabres navigated down a highway by themselves. Human testers sat in the

cars but didn't touch steering wheels, brakes, or gas pedals.



New and improved, with added Internet suffix! Guaranteed to lure droves of investors to your IPO!

ESPN dropped the name SportsZone and changed its Web site's name to ESPN.com. Meanwhile, streaming-content aggregator AudioNet, until recently little known to the public, changed its name to broadcast.com and had one of the most successful IPO first days in history.

Please pardon our appearance while we disappear.

Egghead Software changed its name to Egghead.com and closed all 80 of its retail stores to sell computer products exclusively via the Internet. Apparently the strip malls were just getting too crowded with retailers.

How do you say carpetbagger in HTML?

Zapata Corporation, a leader in marine-protein and food packaging, saw

Jackie Chan fights off six evil Word-macro



virus creators with a Dilbert mouse pad.

China put its national police force in charge of coordinating computer virus research.

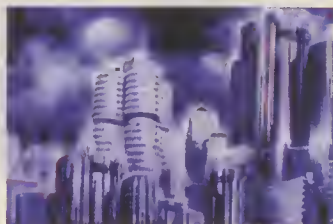
the Web craze, formed a division called Zap, and, hoping to profit quickly from an Internet IPO by creating a portal site, ran "Zap Will Buy Your Website" ads in national newspapers. But as the IPO market took a nosedive, so did Zapata's sudden enthusiasm about cyberspace. In October it called the whole thing off.

Depends how you define handy.

Sony withdrew a model of its Handycam camcorder that had an infrared viewing mode that, when used during daylight, could see through clothing. The camera was reissued with the infrared mode disabled in sunlight. Hey, nobody will think of

Fools! As if there'll be no year 10,000.

Billions were spent upgrading computers to handle all four digits of the year 2000.



We believe Garcia bear to be overvalued and issue a strong sell recommendation.

In response to perceived demand, the proprietors of beanieinfo.com created the online Beandex, a ticker tape that tracks daily changes in the "values" of selected bean-stuffed toy animals.



And of course it goes without saying, the game is a blast.

Nintendo rolled out its whimsical kids' game Bomberman 64 in late 1997—

between the trials of Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols and Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.



putting black tape over the light sensor, right?

Live teen-sex event a hoax. Public feels used, angry.

After *Our First Time*—a live video Webcast that promised to show two virgins having sex—turned out to be a hoax, promoters alternately described it as a Net soap opera and a botched public service announcement promoting abstinence. Apparently there's a first time for everything.



OK, I fell for the live sex hoax, but just try to fool me ag . . . doh! Bogus Viagra pills, manufactured in Thailand

and India, were offered for sale on the Internet, according to international reports.

Hey, the report wasn't indecent—it was "literate smut."

Two hundred and eighty-four members of Congress who voted in favor of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), a bill to criminalize putting "indecent" and "patently offensive" material online, also



release the graphic, voyeuristic Starr report on the Internet, according to online newsletter TBTF (Tasty Bits from the Technology Front). If portions of the CDA hadn't been struck down in court, individuals responsible for posting the Starr report online could have been subjected to fines of \$250,000 and five years in prison.

Now that's really push technology.

Preserving precious streaming-video

bandwidth, obstetricians artificially induced labor



to hasten the arrival of baby Sean in the first

childbirth broadcast live on the Internet, in June.

Next we take down Suddenly Susan.

For years Ted Leonsis, president and CEO of AOL

Studios, insisted that America



Online's primary competition was not the other online services but the NBC TV show *Seinfeld*. Its final episode aired in May (leaving one less AOL chat topic).

We'll return to your personal information after this brief commercial break.

Hilton Hotels, working with content from Wired Digital and software from AvantGo, bought the first

advertisements to be transmitted into PalmPilots.

Aw, who needs a name?

Microsoft succeeded in making half of the PalmPilot's brand name generic by calling its new category of copycat products Palm PCs (then, after a threatened lawsuit, settling for "Palm-size PCs"). Earlier, in an out-of-court settlement with Pilot Pen, PalmPilot-maker 3Com agreed stop using the word *pilot*.

The irony is too much for the elephants to bear.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey filed a deceptive trademark lawsuit against the animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which was using the domain name www.ringlingbrothers.com for



LEWINSKY AND SEINFELD CAST © SYGMA

Distracted by court proceedings, the Department of Justice never saw it coming.

Microsoft's Urban Assault.



It wasn't found in the Bettman Archive either.

"It's kind of amazing, all the things that are out on the Internet."

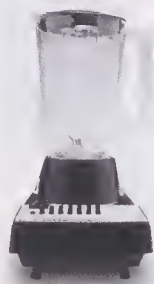
—Bill Gates, pretending that a police mug shot of himself, taken for a minor traffic violation in New Mexico when he was 21, was discovered floating around the Net.

It was actually obtained by the magazine *Brill's Content*, using New Mexico's open-records act, against the wishes of Microsoft lawyers.



You

Okay, this is the big one. Now, how are you going to present to the head honchos in New York, the top dogs in Dallas and the big guys in San Francisco all at once? I mean, you've got video files, audio files, flow charts, a white paper... you name it. You've got to put it together into a tight presentation on the Web. And on top of it all you've got fifteen minutes to do it. Our instructions: take a deep breath and...



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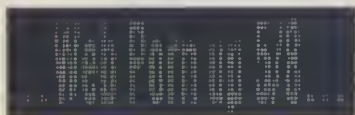
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Honestly, I just read it for the real-time tickers.

"Bringing you the two most sought-after commodities on the Web—Stock Quotes and Adult Entertainment." —Teaser for the pioneering Web site sexquotes.com, which allows users to check stock price quotations alongside high-yield pornographic photos.



a site about the circus's mistreatment of animals. Two years earlier PETA had sued an individual who set up a prank Web site at www.peta.org for a fake group called People Eating Tasty Animals.

What's the part that comes after "money talks"?

"You get much better results, because the site that is willing to pay the most to get your



attention is probably the most serious site." From Bill Gross, founder of GoTo.com, a Web search engine that ranks the results it provides based on how much companies have paid to have their sites listed.

I'm now perceiving strange life-forms coming toward me.

Oh, that's my family. In its SETI@home project, the University of California at Berkeley is enlisting home computer users in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Users' PCs



hunt for patterns in random electronic signals captured from outer space by a giant radio telescope.

It's not that I don't trust you . . .

Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone launched the Where Are You Now Service, which lets people track the

whereabouts of children and senior citizens in their care who carry popular Doraephones. Guardians receive faxed street maps with the current locations of subjects pinpointed.

Make money with your PC at home!

Seattle-based freelance writer Bruce Miller received \$200 in a settlement from the sender of an unsolicited e-mail trying to sell him Tahitian *noni* juice. Miller had filed a "demand for damages" letter under Washington State's new antispam law.

Lose money with your PC at home!

Internet gossip columnist Matt Drudge was slapped with a \$30 million libel lawsuit (with America Online a codefendant) by White House adviser Sidney Blumenthal. Drudge had written falsely that Blumenthal had "a spousal abuse past," then retracted the story the next day. Too late!

Try new Windows—and you'll never have a clue what the hell is happening inside your computer again.

"What the guy is supposed to do is feel uncomfortable when he has bugs, suspect the problem is DR-DOS and go out and buy MS-DOS and not take the risk." From internal Microsoft e-mail, sent in 1992 but made public this year, that discusses deliberately crippling beta copies of Windows 3.1 to produce a bogus error message if they are

Letting viewers determine firsthand whose body looks more misshapen.

The intensely creepy computer-animated

"dancing baby" appeared



alongside Calista Flockhart in an episode of Ally McBeal.

used with DR-DOS, a competitor to Microsoft's MS-DOS.

And you should see what it's doing to our market capitalization.

Rob Glaser, chairman and CEO of RealNetworks, testified to Congress in July that Microsoft's Windows Media Player disabled parts of his company's competing RealPlayer. The testimony caused RealNetworks' stock price to plunge from \$45 to \$28 in four days.

Now that testimony—and that Bill—we like.

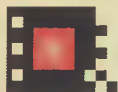
RealNetworks estimated that 2 million people used its RealPlayer to watch President Clinton's videotaped grand-jury testimony on the day the video was released to the public in late September. RealNetworks' stock immediately began to rise sharply.

Hope springs eternal.

In June the Associated Press wire service

Shockingly, the fiction of William Shatner was completely overlooked.

After being criticized for its ranking of the 100 best English-language novels since 1900, the Modern Library asked Internet users to vote for their own top 100. In the online poll 4 of the top 15 vote-getting novels were by Ayn Rand. Also in that group: 3 books by L. Ron Hubbard, 1 by Robert Heinlein, 1 by J. R. R. Tolkien, and 1 by Frank Herbert.



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Infolink 295 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

The Floppies: 1998 in Review

accidentally distributed an obituary for comedian



Bob Hope, who wasn't dead. Hope actually passed away later in the year. Whoops—our mistake! He's still alive even now.

Just to be safe, we've applied for the patent on "getting an e-mail and ignoring it for two days before responding."

Patents were awarded during 1998 for online ideas including name-your-price shopping (priceline.com), pay-for-eyeballs advertising (CyberGold), shopping carts (Open Market), and possibly all-push technology (Netdelivery).

Officer, I admit I put that piece of e-mail under that pile of garbage.



"The Internet is the last bastion of real freedom." From Arlo Guthrie,

author of the turkey-day folk-song classic "Alice's Restaurant," discussing the Web site for his Guthrie Center.

Help! I'm having a heart attack! Please contact a local emergency cardiologist by transmitting a signal 22,000 miles into space and hoping it successfully bounces off an orbiting chunk of metal down to his belt-strapped pager.

In May PanAmSat's Galaxy IV satellite broke and had to be scrapped

completely in the worst paging-related disaster in history.



But "I'm calling you on Dysprosium" didn't sound classy enough.

The Iridium satellite telephone network, conceived to use 77 low Earth-orbiting satellites and provide global wireless communications, got its name because 77 is the atomic number for the element Iridium. The service launched in September using only 66 satellites.

Bill Clinton immediately embraced the idea, while entertainers Milli Vanilli, the Bangles, Arsenio Hall, and the Fine Young Cannibals chimed in their support.

Consultant Arnold Jagt has devised (and describes at www.sitewave.net/y2ksb) what he calls "Y2K immunity." He suggests "turning back the clocks" on your computers



and data by 11 years—essentially going about your

business as if we were in the late 1980s again.

Last one holding the fund is a rotten egg. Pennsylvania-based investment firm Emerald Advisers created the Y2K Fund, a mutual fund investing exclusively in companies that provide

software and services to help corporations beat the millennium-bug problem. From "Risk Factors" in the fund prospectus: "... due to the Fund's investment-time-horizon constraint, the Fund's adviser intends to principally pursue ... short-term trading gains, rather than holding portfolio securities for longer term appreciation."

Not worrying about the Y2K problem.

RIP 1998:

Apple software subsidiary Claris, MSN's entertainment efforts, Sega's Saturn, removable-drive makers SyQuest and Avatar Peripherals, and the dearly departed Newton MessagePad.



Forget Netcenter—here's a portal to me!

Celebrities whose names are their domains:

marthastewart.com



Sample content: "This week, join Martha at the Columbine

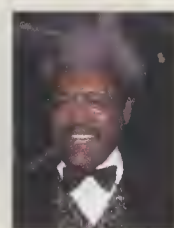
Guest Ranch in Somerset, Colorado, and learn how to wield a lasso ... and Martha shows how to properly rig a clothesline and sew a charming and versatile clothespin bag."

joycemaynard.com

Sample content: "Click here for links to Joyce's tour schedule, self-interview, and the newly added book excerpt."

donking.com

Sample content: "Don King coined the phrase, 'Only in America.' He lives it. He breathes it. He believes it. It's part of his soul."



pamelaandersonlee.com

Sample content: "Hey



girls— You're gonna love this! Get Pam's bikini

bottoms here exclusively!"

jennyjones.com

Sample content: "You Fathered My Child and I Will Prove It Today! (Neither WB Online nor its affiliated or related entities or its content providers are ... liable to any person or entity whatsoever ... for any loss, damage ... injury, claim, liability or other cause of any kind or character whatsoever based upon or resulting from any information or opinions provided.)" Adds Jenny, "Send me your pumpkin recipes and win!"



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- > The Live!Ware™ program provides upgrades over life of product
- > Hundreds of cool new and upcoming titles with Environmental Audio™ support

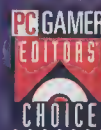
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Maximum PC Verdict 10



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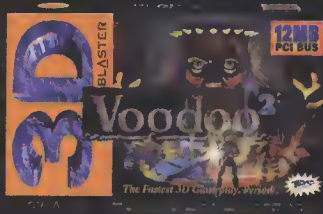
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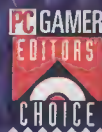
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— PC Gamer, May 1998
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— C/NET, February 1998

5-Star Gameworthy Review,
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	> 3D Blaster® Voodoo2™ 12MB	Call Now!		◆		
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	> PC-DVD™ Encore Dxr™ 2	\$199 ⁹⁹ *		●	●	◆
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	> PCWorks FourPointSurround™	\$99 ⁹⁹		◆		
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Welcome to Part 3 of *PC Computing's* Digital Camera and Scanner Superguide. We've gathered the handiest tips, tricks, and professional secrets from the digital-imaging world to help you get the most out of your scanner or digital camera.



IMAGE EDITING

Make ordinary images spectacular. Here are all the tips and tricks you need to make images look flawless.

PAGE 212

DIGITAL CAMERAS

You may never photograph supermodels, but follow these easy pointers and you'll be shooting like the pros.

PAGE 220

SCANNERS

If turning standard photos and images into digital ones makes you nervous, relax. It's easier than you think.

PAGE 222

VISUAL GLOSSARY

Histogram? Posterize? Moiré pattern? Don't be intimidated. Our cheat sheet explains it all.

PAGE 224

BY DAVE JOHNSON

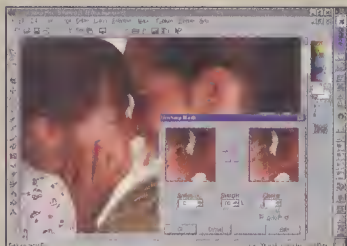


Image Editing Tricks

The best thing about digital images is that you can always make them better. Blurry pictures, huge files, flat colors? Thanks to image editing software there's almost no problem you can't solve. You can also turn your pictures into works of art—literally. And you'll find plenty of digital imaging tips and other advice on the Web. We show you how.

SHARPEN YOUR SHOT

Poor focus can ruin a great picture. If your image isn't too badly blurred, use your image editor's sharpen tool to fix it. Sharpen



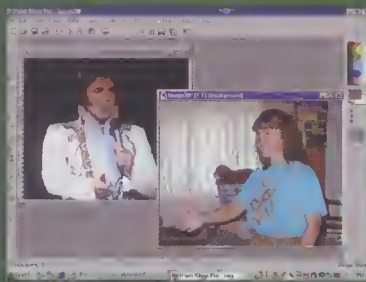
actually increases contrast, which tricks your eye into thinking the picture is focused better than it really is. If your editor includes an unsharp mask tool, try that out first—it changes the contrast only along the scene's edges, where focus problems are most apparent.

STEP BY STEP

Shake Hands With Elvis

Digital images were made for tweaking, juggling, and all sorts of pixel trickery. And though you may think it takes expensive image-editing software to pull off such stunts, almost any editor will do. We use Jasc Software's very affordable Paint Shop Pro to let you meet your lifelong idol—Elvis.

Step 1 First you need a picture of yourself that's suitable—one in which you're more or less the same size as Elvis. Load the King into Paint Shop Pro and use Image, Image Information to find out how tall Elvis is in the selected image. Then crop your photo so you're seen only from the waist up—like Elvis is—and resample the image (Image, Resize) until it's the right height.



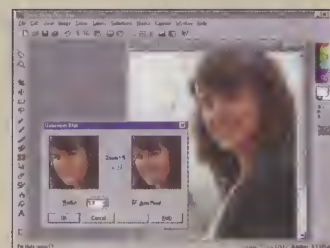
Step 2 You'll need more room to Elvis's right to paste your photo, and since the background is solid black, it's easy—copy the Elvis image to the clipboard, then create a

PUNCH UP COLORS

That old-fashioned fire truck looked great when you took the picture, but it's just a muddy red-orange concoction in the final print. Don't worry: You can make it as vibrant as the original. Just open your image editor's color-adjustment control and drag the red to the right until it looks as bright as you remember. For a greater punch, drop the other two colors (green and blue) by half the amount by which you increase the red. To keep the whole image from turning red, select just the region you want to adjust before you start sliding color controls around.

ADD SOFT FOCUS

In the movies, a thin layer of gel on the camera lens is often used to mute leading ladies' features. If you want your portrait subjects

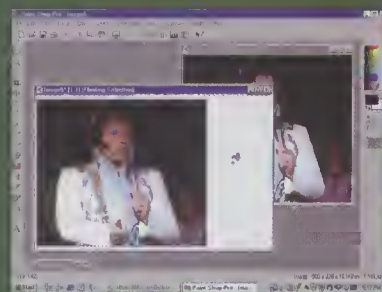


to look like Hollywood stars, retouch their close-ups with the soften or blur tool. You can apply it more than once to get just the right amount of soft focus. For best results, select only the person's face so the rest of the picture stays in sharp focus.

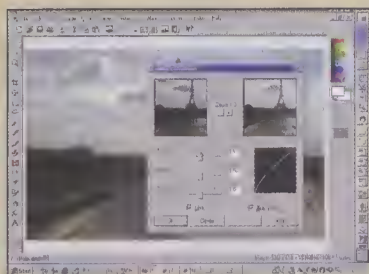
new canvas with File, New. Paste Elvis on the left side of the blank canvas, and flood-fill the rest of it with black.

Step 3 Now for the tricky part. You need to use a selection tool to copy your likeness but none of the photo's background. You can use the Magic Wand or the Freehand tool—whichever you're more comfortable with. Try the Smart Edge tool, which selects the

boundary between large color changes. Once it's selected, you could move right to step 4, but the transition from your picture to the background would be too sharp. That means it won't



MAKE IT BRIGHTER



A little brightness goes a long way. A throwaway picture can become something worthy of framing with just a nudge of the brightness control. Often the brightness and contrast controls are located together—you may find that increasing both contrast and brightness really helps. Alternately, try the gamma control. Gamma is like brightness, but it affects the image's midranges more than its highlights and shadows—so your shadows don't become a muddy gray from too much brightness.

BANISH THE BLURRIES

Still blurry? Another way to improve the apparent focus of your picture is to soften the background. This technique mimics your 35mm camera's short depth of field and tricks the eye into thinking the subject is focused more sharply than it really is. Select everything except the subject (in Paint Shop Pro you can select the subject and then choose Selections, Invert). Then use the blur or soften tool to give the image's background a dull, indistinct quality. Combine this with sharpening on the main subject for great results.



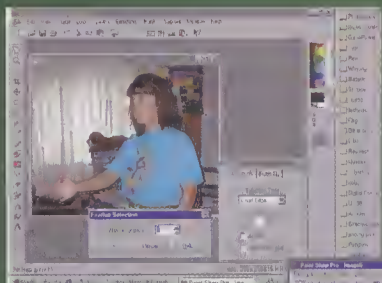
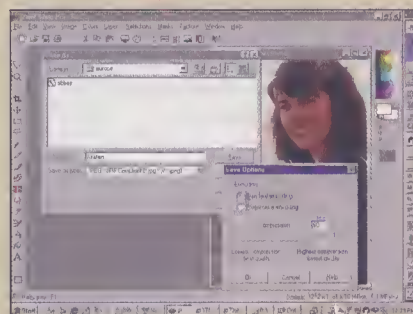
ALTER REALITY



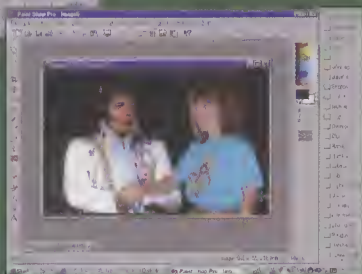
Why be satisfied with the bland colors of the real world? Use the Colorize command in your image editor to convert an image to a monochrome hue—like a grayscale image, only you get to choose the color. Vary the hue to change the color, and the saturation to modify the intensity.

SHRINK THE FILE

Need to e-mail your image? Put it on a diet. When you save your image as a JPEG file, most image editors let you control the amount of compression, which in turn makes the file size smaller. JPEG can typically achieve 10:1 to 20:1 compression without visible loss in image quality.



look realistic in the final picture. First use the Feather tool to smooth out the edges of the selected region. Choose Selection, Modify, Feather, and choose a value of about four pixels.



Step 4 Copy your picture to the clipboard and then switch to the King. Choose Paste, As New Layer. You'll appear onstage next to Elvis.

Step 5 All you need to do now is position yourself. Arrange your picture so your hands meet. If you like, you could copy Elvis's arm and paste it as a new layer over yourself, creating a slightly three-dimensional effect—you in front of his left shoulder but behind his arm. As a finishing touch, you can sharpen or



blur yourself a bit to match the Elvis photo—in this case, it needed a bit of softening. The FBI might know it's a fake, but it's fine for your photo album!



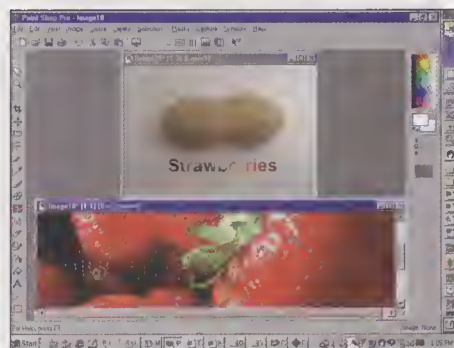
BECOME AN ARTIST



Yes, you can paint like Monet, Renoir, or van Gogh. Your work may never be displayed in the Musée d'Orsay, but it's easy to give your images an Impressionist or modern look. Some programs—like MetaCreations Painter and Corel PhotoPaint—have special tools that transform your image into a work of modern art. If your editor doesn't have such a tool, experiment with other filters like Erode, Emboss, Pixelate, and Hot Wax to get other interesting effects.

CUSTOM TEXT

Don't settle for plain, solid titles when you can fill text with images and color gradients. To paste text filled with a picture into another image using Paint Shop Pro, write your message on the first image. Turn off the Floating control and click on OK. Paste the text into the second image—you'll have text made from the original image.



BLUE-SCREEN MAGIC

Create your own Hollywood blue screen. An image editor lets you easily produce a black-and-white image with just a splash of color. Load your image into an image editor that supports layers, and put a copy on the clipboard.



Next, convert the image to grayscale. Paste the color version as a layer on top of the grayscale version, and then selectively delete everything from the image except the areas you want to remain in color. Voilà—the grayscale shows through around the color.

TOP WEB RESOURCES

The Internet is chock-full of handy Web pages and Usenet newsgroups dedicated to the subject of digital art. Here are some of the best places to get started. Link to them all at www.pccomputing.com.

Product and Technology Answers

The Usenet newsgroup rec.photo.digital is about all things related to digital imaging—scanners, cameras, and software. Generally, though, the messages discuss products and technology, not tips and tricks for actually using them. Stop here for advice from other users when you're on your way to choosing a camera or a scanner.

Post Your Images Online

There are several Web sites that serve as public galleries—letting you post your own images and see what others have done. Get some worthwhile advice on ways to improve your work and see how your masterpieces compare with others.

Visit The Computer Artist's Forum at www.geocities.com/SoHo/3103/. View other people's masterpieces or submit your own for display.

Imaging Advice Galore

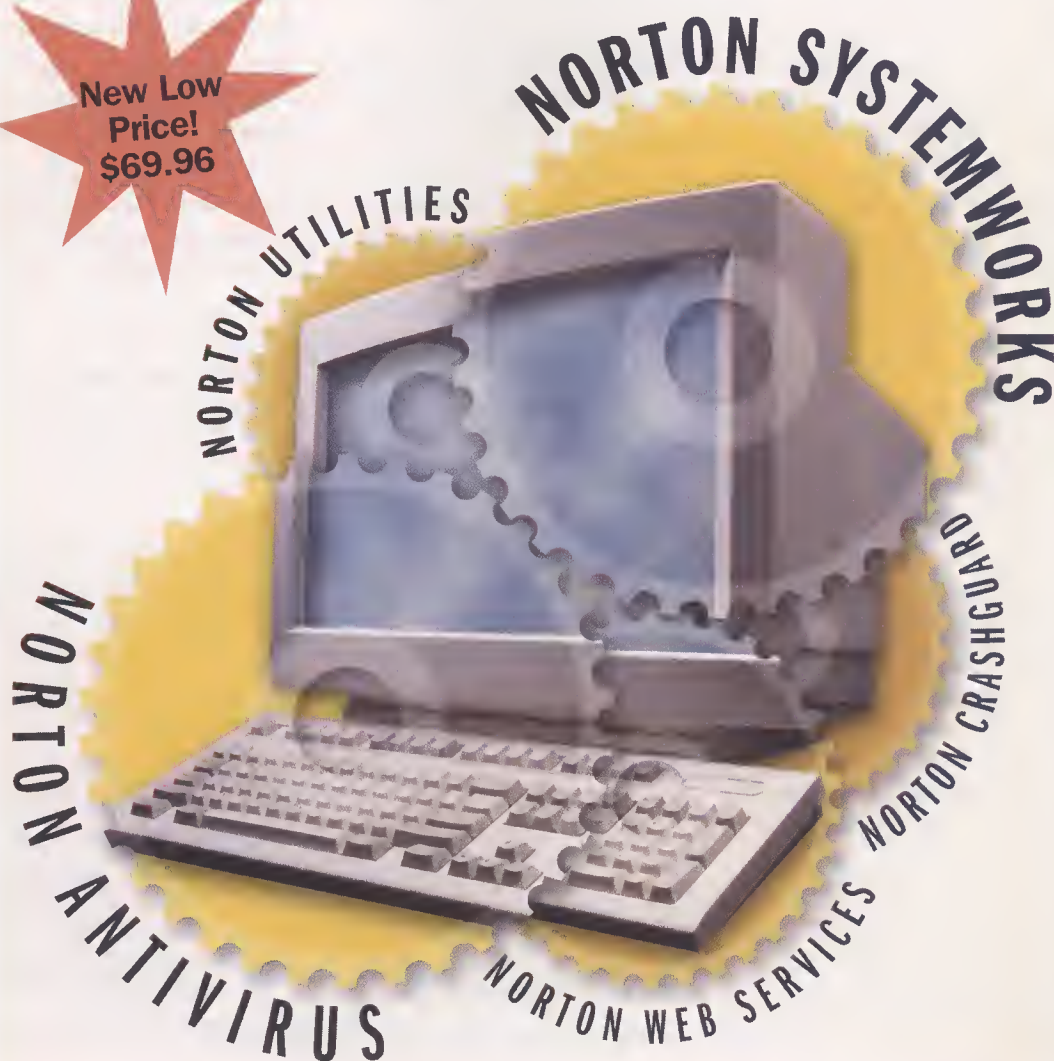
i-us.com is a huge Web site where you'll find all kinds of resources—a gallery of reader-published imagery, downloadable software, related links, and more. If you use Paint Shop Pro, make sure you visit this site to try out the tutorials, which can help you make the most of the program's special effects.

Ultimate Photography Site

A Web Ring is an online community of Web sites bound together by a common theme, like the 3Com PalmPilot, music, or photography. The Ring of Photography, found at www.best.com/~gazissax/paths/ring, is a group of more than 350 Web sites dedicated to imaging. Here you'll find many sites dedicated to digital photography, image editing, and scanning.

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Norton SystemWorks™: The smartest way to keep your computer working

Whether you're an experienced PC user or new to the world of computing, you need utilities. Your computer needs constant maintenance — from optimizing your system to keeping your hard drive clean. It needs protection against viruses and infections. And ways to prevent crashes and resolve conflicts.

That's a lot of utilities. So many that they duplicate functions, sucking up system memory and precious space on your hard drive. Sometimes they even conflict with each other!

Of course, computers ought to function well these days. But since they sometimes don't, you need a single, comprehensive solution that will keep your computer working. A solution that's affordable. A solution that's easy to use.

That solution is Norton SystemWorks. Because it has the very best and most current version of everything you need, Norton SystemWorks is the smartest way to keep your computer working. And Norton SystemWorks is Windows 95 and Windows 98 compatible.

What makes Norton SystemWorks the best?

Norton Utilities™ – the #1 problem-solving software for over 15 years and the industry leader in detecting, repairing and preventing major and minor computer problems.

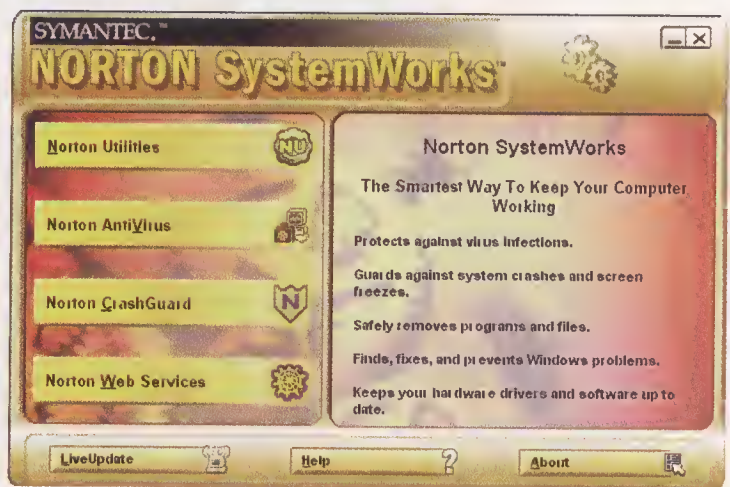
Offering unrivaled power and control, it optimizes your computer to run at peak efficiency, detecting Windows problems in the background and solving them with intelligent repair capability.

Norton AntiVirus™ – the #1 anti-virus program in the U.S. and in the world, recommended by users more frequently than any other product of its kind.

It updates itself automatically and works in the background to eliminate today's and tomorrow's viruses, no matter where they come from.

Norton CrashGuard™ – automatic protection against PC crashes and screen freezes that's three times as effective as any other program. Using award-winning Norton technology to find and solve your disk problems, Norton SystemWorks includes software that detects and solves software problems behind the scenes without slowing you down.

Norton Web Services™ – a web service that locates and helps you install any



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hardware drivers and software updates specific to your system. It detects the software and hardware installed on your computer, then uses the power of the Internet to check your needs against Symantec's up-to-the-minute database containing thousands of patches, drivers and application add-ons.

Norton SystemWorks is integrated

Only Norton SystemWorks offers you an award-winning, best-of-breed collection of utilities — and you can click it all into action from a single, integrated Norton SystemWorks screen.

Because Norton SystemWorks is so tightly integrated, it's easy to install and easy to launch. All the utilities included in Norton SystemWorks are designed to work compatibly with each other and duplicate functionality has been eliminated. Moving from one utility to another — say, from Norton AntiVirus to Norton Utilities — is as simple as clicking a button on your screen. What's more, Norton SystemWorks features like CD Start and Launch Pad make it exceptionally easy to use.

Just one purchase buys you all the functionality you need for system problem-solving and optimization, virus protection, maintenance and crash protection.



Easy to install with the CD Start screen.

Norton SystemWorks runs the way you want it to

Whether you want it to work automatically in the background or you want to customize it to adapt to your level of expertise, Norton SystemWorks can accommodate your needs. Norton SystemWorks can be customized for the perfect fit between you and your computer.

And if you're already using other Norton products, it's easy and affordable to move up to Norton SystemWorks.

Norton SystemWorks is an excellent value

Norton SystemWorks also comes with a FREE Bonus Pack CD including the following stand alone products: Remove-It® 98 — safely removes old applications and other unneeded files, Norton Mobile Essentials™ — to resolve laptop connection problems, Visual Page™ — a

web development tool for building, deploying, and managing personal web pages, WinFax™ Basic Edition — to send and receive faxes directly from your computer, pcANYWHERE™ Express — to remotely access PCs, applications and information from your web browser.

Just one purchase buys you four award-winning products and a free Bonus Pack. A total retail package valued at \$500 for one great price — \$69.95*. And if you own any Norton, Symantec or competitive product (Nuts & Bolts™ 98, Nuts & Bolts™ Deluxe, VirusScan™, FirstAid™, or Uninstaller™) you can get a \$10 mail-in rebate from Symantec when you purchase Norton SystemWorks. Nothing beats Norton SystemWorks. It's a convenient, one-box solution with all of the most current and effective PC utilities.

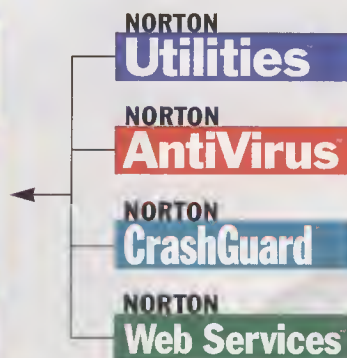
Norton SystemWorks. The smartest way to keep your computer working.

*Manufacturer's suggested retail price

on the web at: www.shop.symantec.com/nsw10buy.html

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Digital Camera Tips

You've got the snazzy camera with all the professional features. But instead of snapping pictures, you're feeling overwhelmed. Don't worry. We've got helpful hints to get you started. Plus we'll show you tips and tricks on everything from choosing the right lighting and zapping red-eye to posting your masterpieces on the Web.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT RESOLUTION

If your camera comes with resolution and compression options, make sure you use the right settings for each job. Choosing the right setting depends on the type of photos you're taking and what you want to do with the end result. If you're taking pictures and putting them on the Web, for instance, 640-by-480-pixel images are just fine. But if you want to print your photos with the same quality as professionally processed prints, then you'll need a higher resolution. A 4-by-6-inch print requires a megapixel original to avoid pixels and jaggies in the final product. As for compression, stick with the highest-quality setting all the time. This requires extra memory and limits the number of pictures you can take, but the results are worth it.

PANNING FOR ACTION

It's tough to catch that perfect shot of a speeding car, plane, or cheetah. Your digital camera will probably just register a blur unless you try panning. As the subject approaches, twist your body to follow the movement in your viewfinder. As it makes the closest approach, press the shutter release and continue panning along with the moving subject. You'll get a perfectly frozen subject with a motion-blurred background.



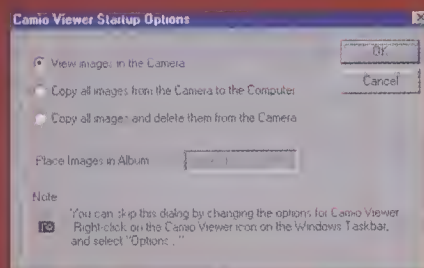
STEP BY STEP

Put It on the Web

You bought a digital camera for taking instant photos anywhere. Pose, click, expose—you've got an image worthy of showing the world. Now it's time to prepare your image for the Web, where you can show it off to colleagues, friends, and family.

Step 1 Now that you've taken your picture, transfer the image to your PC. Digital cameras vary, but you'll probably just need to connect a serial cable and activate the camera's

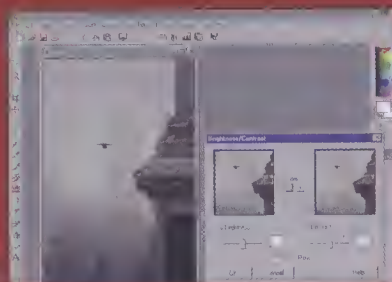
image-transfer software in Windows. If you have other software monitoring your serial port—like the PalmPilot HotSync Manager—you'll need to turn it off before Windows can find your camera.



Step 2 Load the image into an image editor such as Paint Shop Pro and make any necessary changes. Use the crop tool

LOSE THAT RED-EYE

We bet you have plenty of pictures in which your kids look like they could star in *The Omen*. It's easy to return the children to their angelic selves. Most digital cameras include a red-eye reduction option that pulses the flash just before the exposure, forcing the subjects' irises to close and eliminating the red glare off their pupils. Use the red-eye option only when you have to, since it drains battery life. No red-eye reducer on your camera? You can fix your snapshots after the fact; most image editing programs include red-eye reduction.



Step 3 Now it's time to save your image. Most of the time you'll want to save the image as a JPEG file, since this compact format downloads from the Internet fairly quickly. You can

to frame the picture exactly as you want it, or use the brightness and gamma controls to brighten or darken it. If the image is too large, shrink it with the resize or resample tool.

increase the compression to shrink the file some more, but watch out—compress it too much and the image will be visibly degraded. Make sure the image isn't too big by checking the file properties.

EASY ERASING

You'd have a beautiful picture of the Eiffel Tower, if only it weren't marred by a distracting fence in the middle of the shot. Use your image editing software's scratch remover to erase it. If you don't have such a feature, you can do it yourself. Choose your editor's clone tool and pick a



nearby spot in the scene with similar colors. Then paint over the pole, replacing it with the new color. If you're careful, no one will ever know anything was there to begin with.

GREAT EXPOSURE

When you're shooting directly into the sun or some other bright light, your camera will automatically compensate by underexposing the subject, turning it into a dark blob. If lighting isn't on your side, use the camera's exposure compensation control to overexpose the shot: Set it to +1 or +2.

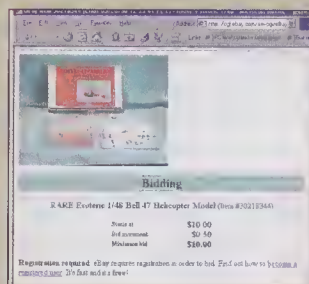
BATTERY LIFE

Digital cameras eat batteries like kids eat candy. You can get the most out of a set of batteries by disabling features you don't need: Turn off the flash when you're outdoors. Shut off the LCD and use the optical viewfinder. Use the AC adapter when transferring images to your PC. And invest in nickel-metal hydride rechargeable batteries.

TURN JUNK INTO CASH

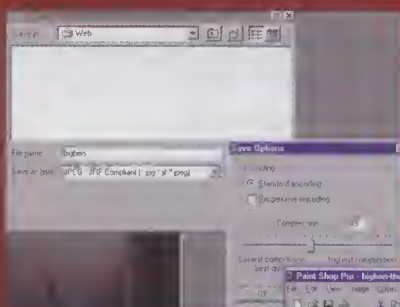
Have a garage or attic full of stuff you'd like to lose? Make some money in the process. Take digital photographs of your valuables and use an online auction site like ebay.com, uauction.com, or firstauction.com to sell them online. Some auction aficionados have had so much luck with the online

auction and trading scene that they've made it their full-time job.



REDUCE CAMERA SHAKE

Your picture of Bigfoot would surely be Pulitzer Prize material—except you had the jitters, and the image is all blurry. One of the biggest causes of camera shake is watching the LCD on the back of the camera. For more stability, hold the camera's optical viewfinder right up to your eye whenever possible. Use the LCD for looking at images after you've taken them.



Each of your Web graphics should weigh in under 20K on average, or they'll take too long to display.

Step 4 To make your page more visitor friendly,

display a thumbnail of the image, and let viewers click on this miniature if they want to see the full-size picture. To make a thumbnail, use your image

editor's resize or resample tool to shrink the image. Make sure to keep the image's aspect (height to width)

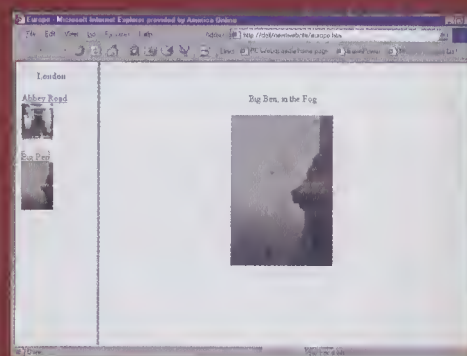
ratio the same, and create a thumbnail that's about 75 pixels across. Save this file as a JPEG as well.

Step 5 Now all you do is add your new image to your Web page. If you have a graphical Web page editor, simply drag and drop the new

image. If you're creating the page by hand, add this HTML code to your page:

```
<A HREF="picture.htm">
<IMG SRC="thumbnail.jpg">
</A>
```

The page called picture.htm is where you'll display the full-size image previewed in the thumbnail.



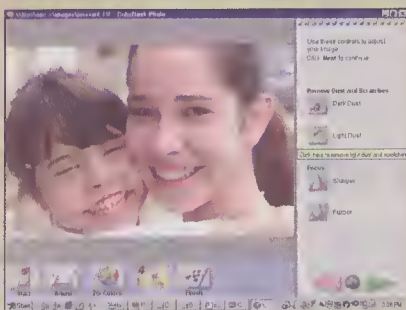


Scanner Secrets

Your scanner may look similar to a copy machine, but getting perfect scans means more than simply pushing a button. Histograms, descreening, and calibration sound confusing, but if you follow our tips you'll be scanning with the best of them in no time.

ELIMINATE FLAWS

Are your kids' pictures damaged, and you no longer have the negatives? You can scan old prints into your PC and restore them digitally with an image editor. Use your software's scratch remover to get rid of small lines and tears. If you don't have this feature, you can do it yourself. Choose the clone tool and pick a



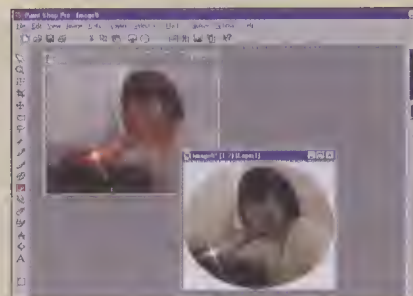
spot in the scene with similar colors. Then paint over the defect, replacing the scratch with the new color.

MULTIPLE SELECTIONS

Many scanners let you set more than one selection area—it's called batch scanning. This is great if you want to scan two different, disconnected text regions on a single document, for instance, or scan two images on the same page to different files. Just draw a frame around the first area and then designate a second, third, and fourth area as well. Some scanners make you hold down the Shift key to enter batch-scanning mode.

AGE AN IMAGE

Even yesterday's snapshot can look 50 years old—just a few steps turn a new image into a grainy, sepia-toned heirloom. Scan the photo and load it into an image editor. Next, use a noise filter to dirty the image. Convert it to grayscale and increase its contrast slightly. Colorize the image with a hue of about 30 and a saturation of 50. Finally, blur or soften the image, and you're ready to mount it in an antique oval frame.



STEP BY STEP

Scan and Save

You've had your scanner for six months, but your best picture is the calibration photo that came with the user's manual. We're about to change that. Let's scan the most stubborn, unforgiving subject available—a color magazine photograph.

Step 1 Open the scanner cover and place the document on the glass platen. Center it on the tray, since the ends of the

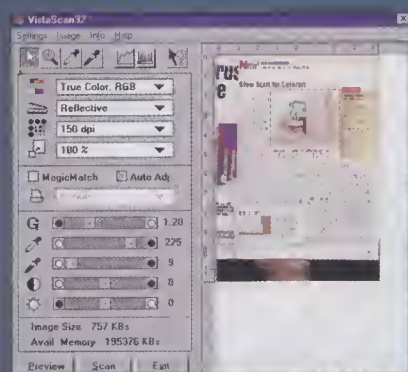
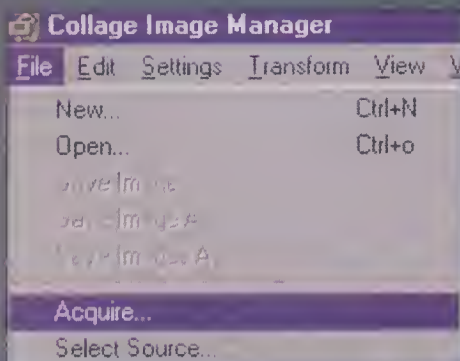
fluorescent lamp aren't always as bright as the center.

Step 2 Launch the program you'd like to use. Almost any graphics program will work, as long as it has a scanner capture feature. Look for a menu item with a name like Capture or Acquire, usually

in the File menu. If your computer is connected to more than one TWAIN device (like a scanner and a digital camera), you may need to specify the source.

Step 3 Next, you'll need to use the scanner's preview tool to frame the document. Click on Preview and wait for the scanner to make a quick

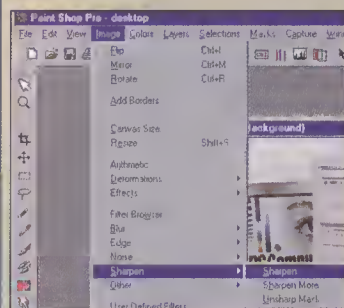
scan of your image. Then use the selection tool to drag a box around just the portion



SHARPEN YOUR IMAGE

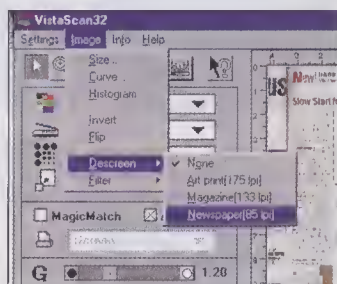
Some scanners have a slightly soft focus. Sharpening an image is often just a matter of invoking the sharpen tool found in most scanner software. If you're not planning to

print the image, you may not want to bother—but it's there if you need it.



DESCREEN YOUR PAGES

Magazines and newspapers print pictures in halftone—a pattern of dots—which can make scanning tricky. Scans exhibit a moiré pattern, which resembles cross-hatching or banding. Luckily, most scanners have a descreen tool that eliminates this effect. Also keep in mind that the screening process is directional—so you might improve the scan by rotating your document 90 degrees and trying again.



of the document that you want to scan.

Step 4 Make sure your settings are right for your project. First, choose a full, 24-bit color scan. Set the resolution for the output size you need—if you want to enlarge the image, you may



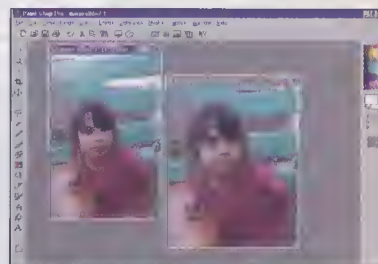
need to scan it at more than 300 dpi. Otherwise, choose 75 dpi if you're scanning for the Web, or 200 dpi if you want to

print the image on an ink-jet printer. Since this image is from a magazine, select the descreen filter to reduce the moiré pattern.

Step 5 Click on the Scan button, and wait for the image to load in your image editor. Compare the onscreen image to your original. If it needs brightness and contrast adjustments, do those now. Also, you may need to straighten the image if

CROP PICTURES

Almost any picture benefits from a little editing. In a traditional darkroom, you can fix poor composition with a technique called cropping. It's even easier with your PC; scan your picture and choose the crop tool. Then drag a frame around the part of the image you want to keep. When you finish, the unwanted parts of the picture are discarded. No crop tool? Frame the part of the image you like with the rectangular selection tool—then cut and paste.



CALCULATE RESOLUTION

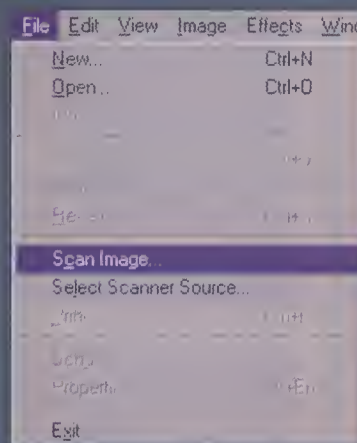
How do you know what resolution to use for scanning? It's easy—just follow this equation:

Resolution = printer dpi \times (intended image width / original image width)

Let's say you'd like to scan a 3-by-5-inch photo and then enlarge it to twice its original size on an ink-jet printer. Since 200 dpi is the resolution of most ink-jet printers, the scan resolution should be:

$200 \times (6/3) = 400$ dpi

So, set the scanner to 400 dpi before scanning the image.



it scanned at a slight angle. When all is well, save it to your hard disk in the appropriate file format depending on how you plan to use the image—typically JPEG, TIFF, or GIF.

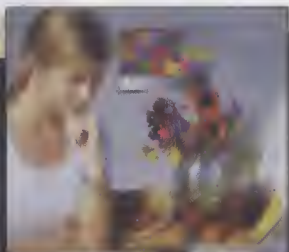


Visual Glossary

Only the federal tax code and the science of astrophysics have more obtuse terminology than digital imaging. And while you may never need to know about celestial phenomena, you might want to know what the heck gamma does. Our glossary of common terms will make you an image expert in no time.

BLUR

Blur filters reduce the overall sharpness in your image, and they can be used for soft focus, motion blur, or adding other special effects. Blur works by averaging the pixels around significant color transitions.



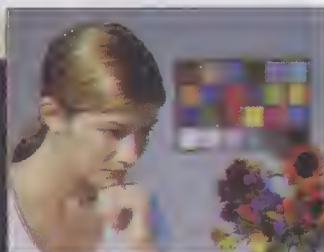
CONTRAST

The brightness control lightens or darkens an image. Contrast changes the range of brightness an image displays. Increasing contrast makes the dark areas darker and the bright areas brighter.



DESKW

Often, scanned documents aren't perfectly aligned. This is most obvious with text documents. Many scanners provide a solution: an automatic tool to deskew your document, rotating it slightly to make it straight.



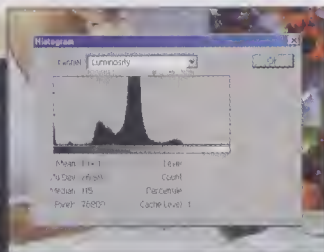
GAMMA

Like the brightness option, the gamma control makes your image brighter or darker. But gamma adjusts only the midrange colors in your image, leaving the brightest and darkest regions alone.



HISTOGRAM

A histogram is a chart that shows the intensity of colors in an image. The horizontal axis represents the range of colors in the image from darkest to brightest; the vertical axis shows how many pixels have that value.



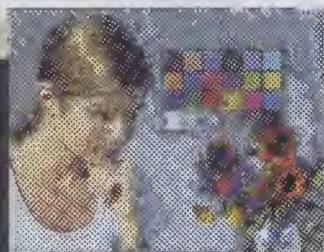
MASK

A mask covers part of your image, letting you edit the rest of the image without affecting the covered region. A mask can be porous, so some of the effect bleeds through. It's like covering part of an object with a tissue.



MOIRÉ PATTERN

When you scan halftone images—like those from magazines and newspapers—the finished image can appear with stripes or bands across it. Eliminate the moiré pattern by using your scanner's descreen tool.



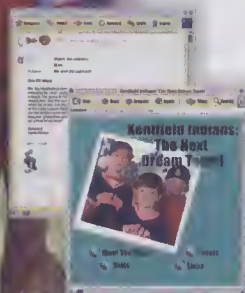
PLUG-IN FILTER

Filters are effects, like motion blur or emboss, that you can perform on your images. You can drop plug-in filters into your image editing program, adding to its capabilities. Most image editors work with Photoshop plug-ins.





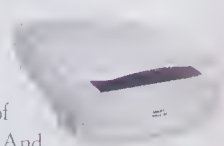
"We led the league in home runs, stolen bases and R.B.I.s.
But it was our UMAX scanner that made us famous."



Little-league baseball cards. Personal Web sites. Emails with photos. Just a few of the things you can do with a UMAX scanner

ASTRA 1220 SERIES.
Make it into the big leagues
for under \$200.

The process is simple: scan your photo with a UMAX Astra 1220 scanner, add your favorite artwork, and print. Suddenly, the scouts are calling. And you've never looked better. That's because Astra 1220 scanners boast true 600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution and 36-bit color quality. Which means you'll see things other scanners can't show. Like the exquisite shades of pine tar on your bat. Every colorful stitch on your team jersey. Heck, you'll even see the hotdog guy in the background. And since Astra 1220 scanners cost under \$200, they win MVP honors for quality and value. Our scanner line-up supports both



UMAX ASTRA 1220

COMPARISON	Astra 1220	HP 6200C
Optical Resolution	600x1200 dpi	600 dpi
Color Quality	36-bit	36-bit
Price	\$129-\$179	\$399

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POSTERIZE

Posterizing your image reduces the number of colors.

The effect is popular in posters, where a photograph looks flat with obvious edges between color changes. The effect is best when set to 4 or fewer bits per channel.



RESAMPLE

Resampling makes your image smaller by discarding unneeded pixels.

You can also resample an image larger, in which case the program duplicates pixels. But this makes your picture look jagged and pixelated.



SHARPEN

The sharpen tool increases the apparent sharpness of focus in an image by increasing the contrast between pixels.

Another tool, unsharp mask, increases sharpness just along the edges where color changes in an image.



SOLARIZE

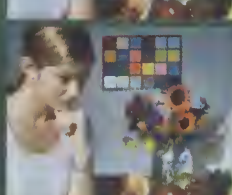
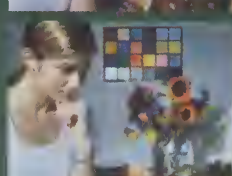
Solarize turns your image into a negative, though you can specify the threshold at which it kicks in. Setting the threshold high

inverts the brightest colors in your image; as you reduce the threshold, more colors are affected.



CHOOSE THE RIGHT FILE FORMAT

Image Type	File Size	Best For . . .
GIF	184K (256 colors)	Web images that don't have a lot of color (like hand-drawn graphics). GIF images can also have a transparent background—a handy feature for the Web.
JPEG	30K (16 million colors)	Full-color images for e-mail and the Web. JPEG files can be compressed to very small sizes, though you lose image quality depending on the level of compression.
TIFF	790K (16 million colors)	Print-quality projects like newsletters and color reports. TIFF files can be compressed slightly without losing image quality.
BMP	900K (16 million colors)	Windows desktop applications like wallpaper and folder backgrounds. BMP files are huge because they can't be compressed.

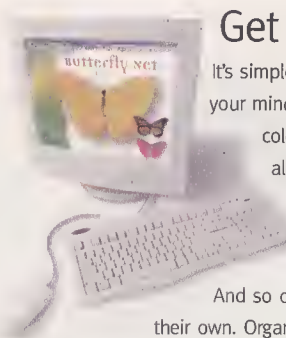


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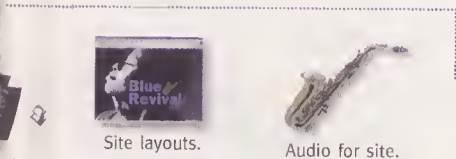
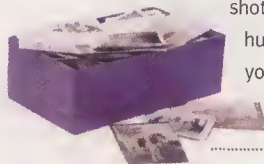
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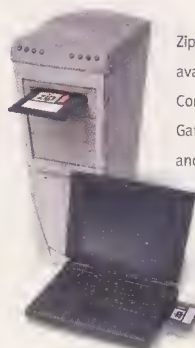
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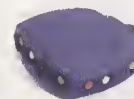
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10 TRAPS THAT SINK most small companies—

and how to **AVOID** them



Technology. It can transform your business or tear it apart. For every piece of smart software or hardware that changes the way you work, there are several hidden traps that could cost your company big money. When you're small, you're vulnerable. A bad decision that would be an expensive lesson to a large corporation could bankrupt your enterprise. Here are the most common technology mistakes—and how to avoid them.

1 Traipsing over Training Think you can't afford training? The truth is you can't afford not to train employees. The best hardware and software products won't do your company any good if no one knows how to use them. If you can't afford to train your entire staff, send a few key employees to classes, then let them pass on their systems-and-software smarts to other workers. Someone on your staff would probably jump at the chance to learn more about technology (try the guy with the pocket protector). If instructor-led training is too expensive, opt for Internet or PC-based training with CD-ROM courses from companies like LearnKey and ViaGrafix. *PC Computing's* Business Labs found that training increases employee performance by nearly 20 percent and pays for itself within weeks (see "Your Business Is in Trouble and You Don't Even Know It," September 1998, page 229).

By Jenny C. McCune

2 Cyber-Suckered The Web is the place to find great deals or to establish a name for your company. But it's also risky territory if you don't do your homework. Plenty of fly-by-night concerns portray themselves as serious firms by crafting professional-looking Web sites—and vanish once they've taken your credit-card number. Be smart. Investigate Web deals just as you would any other business opportunity. Also, check up on the company at the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org). If you're shopping for a Web developer to create your site, take a look at the company's work on the Web. Ask for client references, and follow up with them. If the firm looks legit, get a proposal in writing. If you're not technologically sophisticated enough to evaluate the proposal, ask a colleague to look it over. Any contract should spell out the details of what you want and when. Your agreement should also give you a method of redress. Start your search with proven pros: For a list of dozens of companies that offer certification to computer professionals, check out www.ptek.com/certifications.asp.



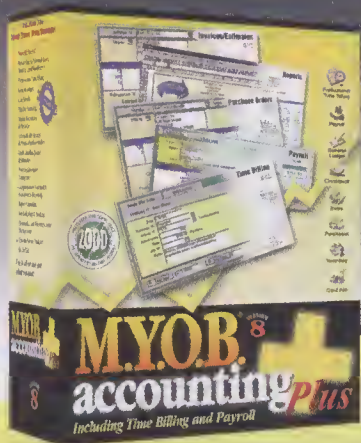
ILLUSTRATIONS BY WWW.SLACKART.COM

3 Shaky Platform Dapper custom-tailored suits always fit better than off-the-rack outfits. So a custom software solution should work better than a one-size-fits-all, shrink-wrapped product, right? Wrong. A custom program may fit your specific needs better, but it costs more and may also be harder to learn and support. Dennis Merrick hired a college senior majoring in computer science to write a database for his coffee shop and eatery in Cincinnati. The student-cum-consultant convinced Merrick that he needed a custom database written in Fourth Dimension—a development language better suited for large-scale client-server systems. The resulting database provided all the business information that Merrick needed: his shop's top-selling items, the relative popularity of latte compared with espresso, bagel sales for the third quarter. But Merrick couldn't figure out how to work the database, even after several help sessions with the student—who turned out to be a lousy teacher. "I've spent a thousand dollars for a database I can't even use, and now I'll have to hire someone to do the work all over again—but in Excel, something that I understand," gripes Merrick. When in doubt, have custom applications built in Microsoft Excel, Access, or other programs you use on a daily basis.

4 Know-It-All Consultants They don't call them gurus for nothing. Make sure you know enough about computers and software that you're not taken for a ride by an "all-knowing" consultant. One magazine publishing company hired a high-priced Manhattan computer consultant to install and support its computer systems. The consultant did his job, then left everybody clueless about how the system worked. The publishing company was at his mercy; it couldn't even fire him because everyone knew so little about what he'd done. Avoid this syndrome by training at least one person on your staff to serve as a reality check against what your consultant tells you. And look for consultants who are members of the Independent Computer Consultants Association (www.icca.org/), and those who are certified by hardware and software companies like Novell and Microsoft.



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5 Overlooking the Internet Have you been hoping this e-commerce hype would blow over? No matter how small your company or how provincial, you still need to examine the Internet and its impact on your business. Unless you've been running your business by telegraph from a cave in Tibet, you're well aware of the staggering figures. Forrester Research, for example, predicts that the number of households shopping online will double in 1998 alone. And Jupiter Communications sees e-commerce revenues leaping from \$2.6 billion in 1997 to \$37.5 billion in 2002. You don't want to give up your piece of that pie, do you? Begin by installing a companywide e-mail system, then start thinking about e-commerce—at the very least, you need to create a Web site. It doesn't have to be expensive—you can start an online store at iCat (www.icat.com/) for nothing, paying more as you add products. Or try GeoCities (www.geocities.com/) for free Web pages and online stores that start at just \$25 per month.



6 Bypassing Backup

Chalet Sports, a ski and bike shop in Bozeman, Montana, found out the hard way that it's critical to make backup copies of financial records and other critical files. On the eve of the store's annual spring clearance sale last year, the company's point-of-sale system crashed, taking the entire inventory and pricing record with it. The sale drew the usual droves of locals seeking deals on skis and winter sports equipment, forcing Chalet Sports' sales clerks to handle transactions the old-fashioned way: by hand, without the benefit of electronic cash registers. Learn from their mistakes and look into NovaStor's NovaBackup 6.0 (www.novastor.com), which lets you automatically archive data to hard drives, tape drives, or removable media. Or try Compaq's full-scale Internet backup service, available at www.compaq.com. The service performs incremental online backups, including encryption and compression—and your files are safely stored away from your premises.

7 Too Much of a Good Thing You don't want to skimp on technology that's vital to your business, but a company that buys a computer network, phone system, or computer that far exceeds its needs is falling into another technology trap. Don't waste money by spending for capacity that you won't use for years—if ever. Determine your needs up front. Evaluate product specifications against your requirements. Do they match up? You don't want to pay for a 100-user system when you've got only half a dozen employees. For example, do you really need that quad-processor Xeon server that costs as much as a brand-new convertible, or does Cobalt Networks' Qube Micro-server 2700WG make more sense, at \$1,249? But remember: It's just as bad to do the complete opposite and buy a system or software that your company will outgrow in a matter of months. Want to take this 1,200-bps modem off our hands?



If All You Wanted To Do Is Take Pictures, You'd Still Be Using Film...



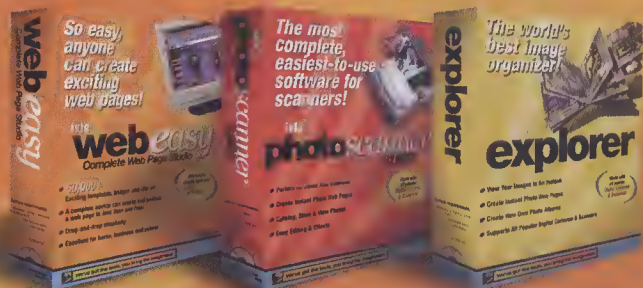
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8 Lack of Support

Many companies cut back on support to save money. Bad move. Can your nontechnical staff figure out what's wrong when the network crashes or a spreadsheet freezes? A company that hasn't lined up technical support isn't in a great bargaining position when it's got a tech problem that has to be fixed by noon. You may have saved up front by opting not to sign a support contract, but now you'll have to pay top dollar for emergency services—and incur the expense of downtime. Face it: Relying on yourself as your company's IS manager is about as smart as representing yourself in court—no matter how many episodes of *The Practice* you've studied. Even if you've got a limited budget, you can't afford not to hire a consultant on a retainer or contingency basis. At the very least, spring for a support service like Intel's AnswerExpress Support Suite (www.intel.com/answerexpress/index2.htm) or Compaq's Support Software CD (www.compaq.com). If cash flow is tight, consider exchanging your service or product for computer support.

9 Islands of Incompatibility If no man is an island, well, neither is a computer system. To compete with your industry's big guns (and the small ones too) you need systems and software that work together. True productivity comes from integrated technology—for example, bookkeeping software that works with a sales automation program, so your sales reps can check on an account's credit status or see whether a product is in stock. Planning to outfit your business with a mix of PCs for the business side and Macintoshes for the creative folks? You can exchange information—but it won't always be easy. Even swapping files between different versions of a program like Microsoft Word can be troublesome. Another tip: Don't scrimp with computers assembled in someone's garage down the road. You're better off with PCs built around standard components. Not only are they compatible and easier to support, but you can swap parts between them if needed.



10 Poor Planning

You have personal goals and business goals. Guess what? You should also have technology goals. Most small businesses don't have the resources to revamp every business function, so be sure to take the time to prioritize—remember, you don't have to do it overnight. Geoff Hanna, president and senior consultant of a computer-consulting firm in Aurora, Colorado, recalls a commodities broker who went down the automate-all-or-nothing road four years ago. He tried to change everything at once and he still doesn't have his new systems up and running. That's a pretty poor return on investment. A better option is to set up an installation plan by figuring out what departments need technology first. Installing new systems and software gradually over time reduces disruptions—it also means that a company doesn't have to come up with a huge chunk of change all at once. Take it slow, and you'll go faster than a company that tries to do everything at the same time.



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BY DON STEINBERG

It's no sci-fi fantasy. You can do all this—and more—thanks to MP3. Short for MPEG layer 3, MP3 is a type of compression that squeezes audio files at a ratio of about 11 to 1—with

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HORVATH. HOW IT WORKS ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIMOTHY EDWARD OOWNS.



internet

Mp3

no noticeable hit to sound quality. That means a three-minute song that would normally hog 33MB of digital storage space is slimmed down to a mere 3MB. And your ears won't notice the difference.

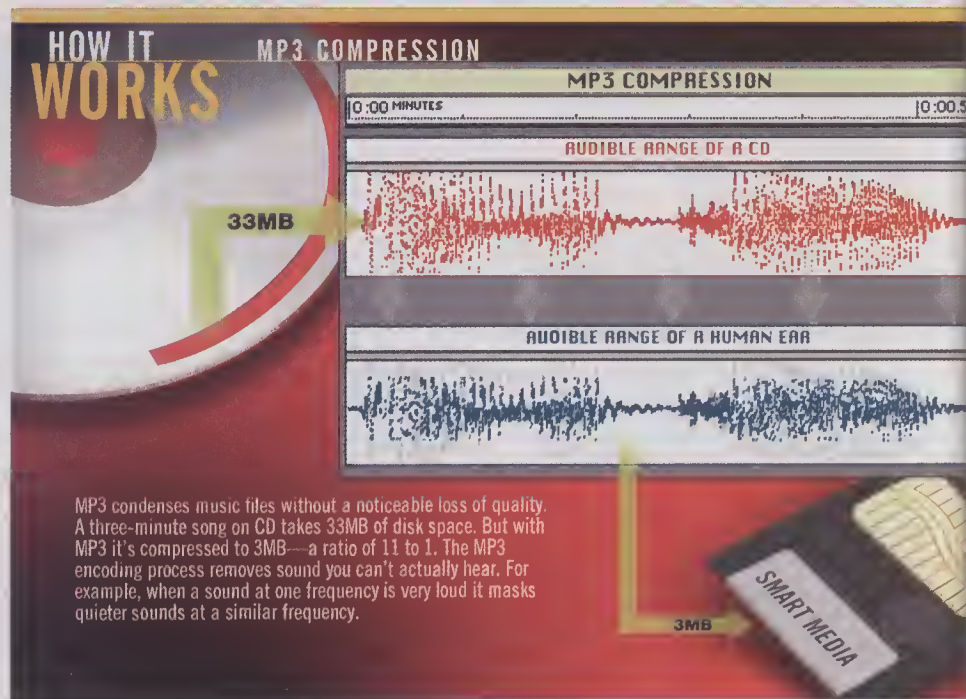
Best of all, you don't need expensive hardware (or membership in an underground music trading ring) to create your own digital music collection. All you need is an MP3 player—a small software program available for download from the Web, often for free (see “Best MP3 Players,” page 246). Players such as Nullsoft's Winamp work like the ubiquitous RealPlayer from RealNetworks, but with an added touch: Most players let you customize their look using wrappers called *skins*. Which means you can spice up the boring black-and-gray audio interface you're used to with color, images, and even animation. Or you can use Microsoft Windows Media Player, which now supports MP3. Whatever you choose, MP3 makes your PC the ultimate music machine.

CheapTunes.com The Internet is teeming with MP3 music. In the early days of MP3, bootleg sites were everywhere. In fact, Stanford University once discovered that a student's site was consuming 80 percent of its network's bandwidth. The site

offered a treasure trove of MP3-encoded copyrighted music to anyone with an Internet connection. And it was all free, of course.

The recording industry quickly staged a crackdown, closing illegal MP3 sites hosted by universities and commercial ISPs. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed restraining orders and brought injunctions and lawsuits against sites that violated copyright laws by distributing free MP3 music without permission from the record label or artist (see “Rip-off Artists,” below).

Even so, you can still download tons of MP3



RIP-OFF ARTISTS

What's legal and illegal in the world of MP3? Rule No. 1: If you operate a Web site that distributes MP3 music files you have copied without permission, watch out. Last year the No Electronic Theft (NET) Act went into effect, making unauthorized digital music copying a potential felony, with penalties of up to \$250,000 and three years in prison.

And the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is watching. According to RIAA president and CEO Hillary Rosen, “Regardless of how large or small your site . . . if you are distributing music without the permission of the copyright holder, you're breaking the law.”

Even Diamond Multimedia, which was

poised to start selling its portable MP3 player, couldn't escape the RIAA's wrath. It slapped Diamond with a suit claiming the tiny device encouraged illegal distribution of copyrighted music. (The judge ruled in Diamond's favor.)

But making MP3 files just for personal use—that's OK, right? Sort of. The Audio Home Recording Act of 1992 says you can make copies of music that you have legally purchased. But the RIAA insists that copying CDs into a digital format like MP3 is illegal under the Audio Home Recording Act. The upshot is that you probably won't get busted as long as you don't give away or sell copies of MP3 tunes to anyone else.



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music from the Web *legally*. Take MP3.com. After only a year in existence, it's one of the most popular music sites on the Web (along with MTV Online), delivering MP3 news, software downloads, and some 3,000 MP3 songs for legal download. And unsigned bands can reach a wide audience at MP3.com instead of waiting around for their big break.

"MP3 is the right technology at the right time," says Michael Robertson, who runs MP3.com. Most people now have Internet access and fast enough PCs to handle complex MP3 encoding. Proprietary audio compression and delivery systems like RealAudio, Liquid Audio, and AT&T's a2b music may flourish, Robertson adds, but they aren't open standards.

Other sites like Emusic (www.emusic.com)—which plans to join forces with GoodNoise and

Nordic Entertainment—and The Audio Diner (www.audiodiner.com) offer MP3 singles for free. They also sell singles—usually for about a buck each—and even entire albums.

Roll Your Own But what if you want to take your existing collection of music CDs and store it electronically on your PC? The MP3 format lets you create your own music database and store it using a fraction of the hard drive space that WAV or other audio files gobble up (see "How It Works: MP3 Compression," page 242).

Even with the most gargantuan hard drive on the market, the size of uncompressed CD-quality digital files prevents you from storing more than a few discs' worth on your PC. Here's why: Every second of CD

music consists of 44,100 individual samples, each one a split-second snapshot of the music's changing sound waves. Each sample takes up 16 bits. So if you have 44,100 samples per second, at 16 bits each, you need 705,600 bits for every second of music. And that's for mono sound. Each second of stereo sound doubles that to 1.4 megabits (or about 176,000 bytes).

Bottom line: It takes more than 10MB to store a minute of music! That's why a compact disc has—and needs—a capacity of 650MB for one album. And why putting music on hard disks never made much sense—until now.

Before you can convert your library of recorded music to MP3 files, you need the right software: a ripper, an encoder, and, of course, an MP3 player. Fortunately, there's an app that contains all three. Music-Match Jukebox pulls songs off CDs (a procedure called *ripping*), converts the songs to WAV files, then encodes them using MP3 technology in a few easy steps. (For more on Music-Match Jukebox and other MP3 recorders, see "Top 5 MP3 Software Recorders," page 251.)

Now Hear This So how exactly does MP3 compression work? First, a refresher course in standard compression, which essentially does smart math: It looks at a file and figures out a way to describe it more efficiently. For example, a region of a graphic file containing 1,000 adjacent white pixels is

TOP MP3 MUSIC SITES

Most illegal MP3 music sites are long gone. But you can still get free music—legally—at these sites. Link to them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow to grow your music collection.

THE AUDIO DINER

www.audiodiner.com

Songs from new acts and cheap singles from the names you know.

EMUSIC

www.emusic.com

The premier source of tunes, free and for sale.

GOODNOISE

www.goodnoise.com

eMusic's parent site, GoodNoise, is also a record label.

THE MP3 PLACE

www.mp3place.com

A solid collection of mostly dance mixes and alternative rock.

MP3.COM

www.mp3.com

The best site for MP3 news and software, plus hundreds of tunes.

MUSICMATCH

www.musicmatch.com

Get blues and folk tunes in MP3 format here.

YESTERDAY USA

www.yesterdayusa.com

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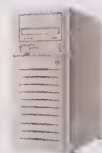
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Infolink 115 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HOW IT WORKS

MP3 HARDWARE PLAYER

Diamond Multimedia's Rio PMP300 portable player holds up to an hour of music in its 32MB of onboard memory and an hour more on removable Smart Media flash storage.

When you press Play, the digital bits cross the data bus to the microcontroller, which sends them on to the decoder. The decoder decompresses and encodes the file for playback. Next, the digital-to-analog converter (DAC) sends the sound—which is now analog—to the headphones or speakers.



summarized by defining the border of the white area, rather than repeating the code for white 1,000 times.

MP3 does this type of compression, but it also accounts for the way your ears hear. Aside from high and low frequencies beyond our hearing range, there's a complex set of relationships between different sounds—their relative frequencies, strengths, and timing—that prevents us from hearing all the sound being produced. For example, when a sound at one frequency is very loud, a quieter sound at a nearby frequency is masked; you simply don't know it's there.

By applying perceptual audio coding, MP3 removes the data representing masked sound without sacrificing overall audio fidelity. The result is that an MP3 file needs just 128,000 bits—instead of 1.4 megabits—to reproduce a second of CD-quality music. That's a compression ratio of about 11 to 1.

MP3 To Go Now you can take your MP3 tunes with you everywhere. The Diamond Multimedia Rio PMP300, a 2.4-ounce Walkman-style device with 32MB of storage, promises to be the next milestone in MP3's short history. Diamond Multimedia already weathered an injunction filed by the RIAA to keep the Rio PMP300 out of production. The RIAA's suit claimed that the Rio would encourage illegal reproduction of copyrighted music.

Lawsuit aside, the Rio PMP300 has MP3 enthusiasts buzzing. The cigarette pack-size device lets you play about a half-hour of CD-quality music—or an hour of music compressed to radio quality—that you transfer from your hard drive or download directly from the Web. Plus the Rio holds up to an additional hour's worth of tunes on removable SmartMedia. And no moving parts mean no skipping, regardless of how much you jiggle the device.

So where is MP3 headed? Certainly for more legal showdowns as the recording industry tries to defend its turf. But there is more hardware on the horizon, including CD players that will play MP3 files you have copied to CD-recordable media. (Regular CD players can't decode compressed MP3 files; you

have to build MP3 player software into their circuitry.) And at www.MP3car.com, you can check out cars with custom-made hardware-based MP3 players installed right in the dashboard.

BEST MP3 PLAYERS

What good is a hard drive full of MP3 audio files if you can't hear them? Download one of these excellent software players, and turn up the volume.

MICROSOFT WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER

Integrates with Internet Explorer to play MP3 files as streaming audio as you download them. Free at www.microsoft.com/windows/mediaplayer.

NIGHT 55 SONIQUE

This slick software plays MP3 files and audio CDs. It features animated controls, Web links, and the ability to change MP3 playback speed. Free at www.sonique.com.

NULLSOFT WINAMP

The king of MP3 players loads quickly and plays flawlessly. Choose from hundreds of alternative looks, or *skins*. It's worth the \$10 registration fee. Get it at www.winamp.com.

YAMP

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HOW IT WORKS

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BEST MP3 PLAYERS

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TURN YOUR PC INTO A JUKEBOX IN 6 EASY STEPS

So you want to collect MP3-compressed music on your hard drive and turn your computer into the ultimate jukebox? As Buddy Holly said, it's so easy. All you need is a standard PC setup: a 166MHz Pentium or better with a CD-ROM drive, speakers, an audio-in jack, an Internet connection, and ample hard disk space.

1. CHOOSE YOUR TUNES.

Downloading music files from the Web is fun, but if you're a longtime music collector, the most fertile source of music for your PC jukebox is probably your own collection. It's easiest to begin with CDs, where the music is already in digital format. To get started, you need ripper software, which yanks digital music tracks off the CDs and copies them onto your hard disk.



Step 1 Insert the music CD into your CD-ROM drive. Your ripper application—in this case MusicMatch Jukebox—lists the songs generically as Track 1, Track 2, and so on, plus the playing time of each song.

Launch a ripper program (see "Top 5 MP3 Software Recorders," page 251). Then place a CD in your CD-ROM drive. This may cause Windows' CD Player

applet to launch; if this happens, close it. The ripper software retrieves the basic information that your stereo CD player displays—how many songs are on the album and how long they are.

2. TAP INTO

WWW.CDDB.COM. Ideally, you want your PC jukebox to know and save the real names of each song. You could type in all of this information, but it's more fun to link to the CD Database at www.cddb.com—a gigantic Internet database that contains artist names and song titles for 240,000 CDs. The best rippers will automatically retrieve a CD's song titles from the CDDb, so when you pop an obscure Pearl Jam import into your computer, within seconds you get a complete and accurate rundown of the song titles (as long as you've launched your Internet connection).

3. LET 'ER RIP. Ripping takes a raw digital music file from an audio CD and saves it on your computer as a WAV file (the standard PC audio format). The process is effortless. With

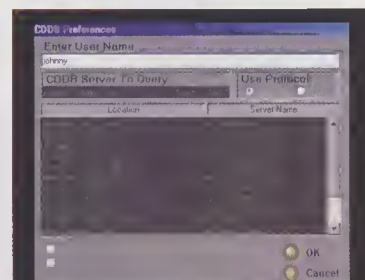
Audiograbber, for example, select the songs you'd like to transfer to your computer, and click on Grab.

The music you convert to MP3 format doesn't have to play in real time as it's being copied. The process is more like a file transfer, with data extracted off the CD at up to 4X—in which case a four-minute song takes one minute to copy.

The process is actually a bit more complicated, because the audio CD format wasn't created to support data extraction. As a result, not all rippers work with all CD-ROM drives. To check whether your CD-ROM drive works with your ripper software, you need to check your drive's model by right-clicking on My Computer, selecting Properties, and clicking on the Device Manager tab. Double-click on CDROM to expand it.

4. GRAB TRACKS FROM LPS AND TAPES.

You can turn tunes from these analog relics into WAV files too. Wire the stereo output from your cassette player or phonograph into your PC's audio-in jack. Then load software

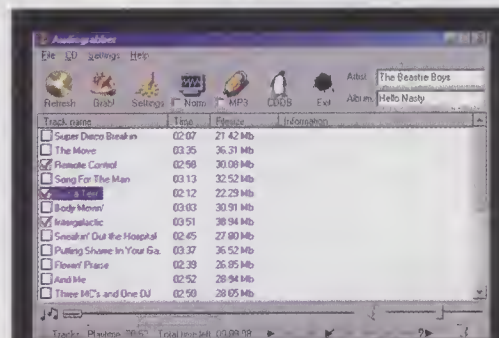


Step 2 Forget entering song and album titles manually. Instead, use ripper software like MusicMatch Jukebox to connect to the CD Database on the Web and download the info.

to digitize and save the incoming audio. Windows Sound Recorder can record WAV files from external sources (but is limited to file sizes that fit into available RAM). MusicMatch Jukebox will digitize analog input into WAVs, as will Adaptec's CD Spin Doctor and Magix Music Studio.

5. COMPRESS WAV TO MP3.

Skip this step if you're using MusicMatch Jukebox—it'll create MP3



Step 3 Check the boxes next to the tracks you want to transfer. Audiograbber saves CD tracks as WAV files; you can set it to send the WAVs to an MP3 encoder automatically.



Using 56 kilobits cuts a song's file size in half, without a huge loss of fidelity; much lower bit rates are fine for spoken audio.

How long the encoding takes depends on your computer's

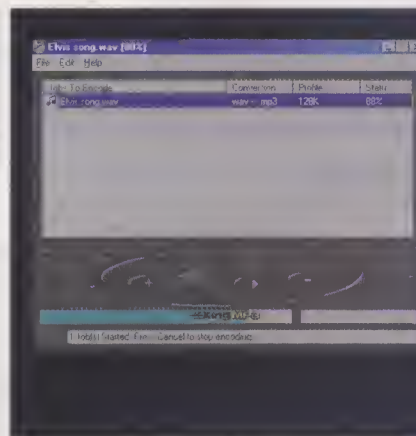
files from audio CDs automatically.

Dedicated MP3 encoders from Xing and Audioactive are simple to use: Select the WAV files you want to encode, and click on Encode to start. MP3 lets you compress music to use fewer than 128 kilobits per second.

processor and RAM as well as the encoder you use. Many freeware encoders can be slow, taking longer than the real-time length of a song to encode it. Xing, Audioactive, and MusicMatch, however, encode faster than real time—on a Pentium II.

6. ROCK ON. Store your vault of MP3 hits in a single directory, or arrange songs by artist. Don't make copies for anyone else, however—that's not allowed. And

don't forget to delete the WAVs you've encoded—they eat up precious hard disk space. Launch your MP3 player, queue up a stack of music files, and crank up the volume.



Step 5 To create MP3 files from WAVs using XingMP3 Encoder, select the files to compress, then click on Encode. During encoding, the Encode button changes to Cancel. The blue bar shows your progress.

TOP 5 MP3 SOFTWARE RECORDERS

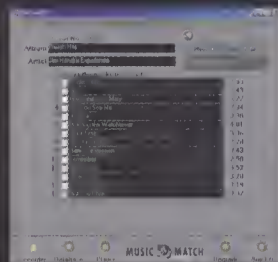
You can't tap into the magic of MP3 without the right software. For starters, your best bet is an all-in-one package for building your MP3 music library.

MUSICMATCH JUKEBOX

★★★★★ Jukebox does it all, combining separate ripping and encoding processes into one simple and fast recording step.

A link to the CD Database (www.cddb.com) automatically retrieves song titles

for use as MP3 filenames. It also encodes input from analog sources. Organize your MP3



collection in a database, and mix playlists for any occasion. It's \$30 at www.musicmatch.com.

AUDIOACTIVE PRODUCTION STUDIO

★★★★★ This is a superfast encoder that turns a WAV file into an MP3 file in half the real-time length of the song. (You'll need additional software to create the WAV

files.) It's \$59; a 30-day trial copy is available for free. Audioactive also offers a free MP3 player at www.audioactive.com.

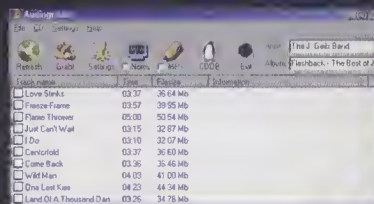


XING AUDIOCATALYST

★★★★★ Xing Technology's AudioCatalyst (above) uses Audiograbber to rip CD music and adds a seamless link to Xing's XingMP3 Encoder for instant MP3 compression. It's not as complete a solution as MusicMatch Jukebox, but Xing's MP3 encoding is the fastest. AutoCatalyst costs \$30; download a free demo of the program at www.xingtech.com.

XINGMP3 ENCODER

★★★★ A no-frills—but fast—stand-alone MP3 encoder from Xing Technology (www.xingtech.com). The company's speedy MP3 codec is also integrated in MusicMatch Jukebox. Cost? Just \$20.



AUDIAGRABBER

★★★★ To get songs from music CDs to your hard disk, you need a program to rip digital music files off the disc. Developed by Jackie the Late Night Hacker, Audiograbber (above) does the job, with a spiffy interface and a CDDb link. It doesn't do MP3 encoding (it creates WAV files), but can be set up to send ripped audio to an external MP3 encoder. It's \$25 at www.audiograbber.com-us.net. Get a free limited version too.



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IBM

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350/P II 32MB 3.2GB NT	1275.38
350/P II 64 3.2GB NT	1395.05
350/P II 32MB 3.2GB	1198.32
400/P II 64MB 6.4GB NT	1619.65
450/P II 64MB 6.4GB NT	1876.18

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333 Celeron 32MB 4.3GB 32X	939.56
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100CT 166/MMX 32MB 2GB 7.1" AM	1487.56

Satellite & Satellite Pro notebooks

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4000CDS 233/P II 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" DS	1587.23
4000CDT 233/P II 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" AM	1767.56
4010CDS 266/P II 32MB 4.1GB	
12.1" DS 24X	1787.91
4010CDT 266/P II 32MB 4.1GB	
12.1" AM 24X	1997.56

4020CDT 300/P II 64MB 6.4GB

13.3" AM 24X	2897.56
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12.1" AM 24X	2477.63

8000CT 266/P II 64MB 4GB

12.1" AM 24X	2967.39
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8000CT 300/P II 64MB 6.4GB

13.3" AM 24X	3347.56
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Portege notebooks

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7000CT 266/P II 32MB 4.3GB 12.1" AM	2897.36
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7010CT 300/P II 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM	3367.86
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7010CT 300/P II 32MB 4.3GB 12.1" AM NT	3427.11
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Acer

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502T 266/MMX 32MB

4.1GB 12.1" AM 20X	1657.23
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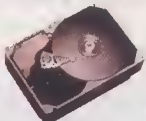
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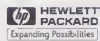
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Death to Spam

Everyone hates getting unsolicited e-mail messages, those strange and sometimes dubious offers that appear in your in-box without warning or request. But you don't have to put up with them. In this month's clinic we show you how to cut down on this nuisance without wasting your precious time.

1. Hide Your E-mail Address

How do spammers get your e-mail address? Many of them have dedicated apps called bots that search the Internet for e-mail addresses. They troll Web sites, chat rooms, Web discussion areas, newsgroups, public discussion lists, and any other place they can find e-mail addresses to add to their large databases. One way to avoid getting too much unwanted e-mail is to be careful about where and how you give out your e-mail address on the Internet.

If you give out your e-mail address in a public Internet forum you can *spoof* your e-mail address. To spoof is to disguise your e-mail address so that a person can figure out what it really is but a computer can't. Suppose your real address is fred@dagg.com. A spoofed version might look like fred.deletethisbit@dagg.com or fred@thisisntpartoftheadress.dagg.com. Put the spoofed version of the address in the

From or Reply To section of your message and include a note at the bottom warning people to change the address before replying. Don't put your real address in the body of the message because spam robots can find e-mail addresses in the text just as easily as in the heading.

2. Change News-Reader Settings

If you're only reading messages in public newsgroups (otherwise known as lurking), you won't be giving away your address. But as soon as you post a message, anyone can read it and grab the e-mail address you provide. To prevent this, spoof the address given out by your newsgroup reader. In Microsoft Outlook 98 and Microsoft Outlook Express go to Tools, Accounts,

News; select the news server; then choose Properties. Under the General tab you'll see an e-mail address and perhaps a Reply address. Change one or both to your spoofed version. Click on OK and Close to get back to the main news reader.

Don't forget to put a warning to readers in your messages. Make the warning part of the signature that your e-mail automatically appends to all outgoing news messages. In Outlook or Outlook Express go to Tools, Stationery, Signature to create your customized signature.

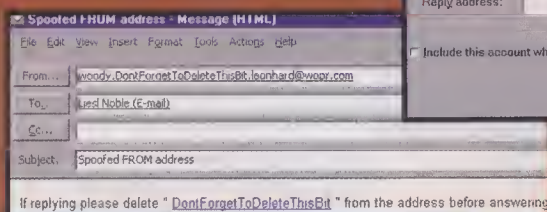
3. Protect Your E-mail in Mailing Lists

You can use the same spoofing trick for outgoing private e-mail, but we don't recommend it.

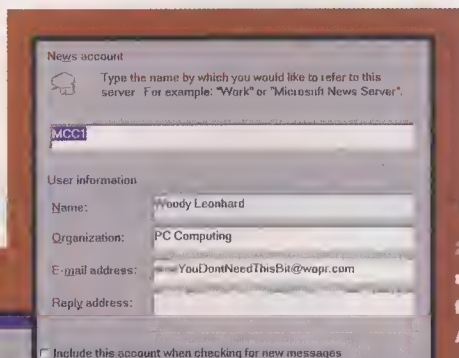
It's unlikely that your e-mail address will be seen by a spammer when you send it from one private address to another. If you do spoof your private e-mail, it's more likely that the receiver won't remember to change the reply address and you'll never see the response. In addition, spoofing private e-mail can be taken as a sign of distrust in the people you're writing to, and changing the return address is an inconvenience for them.

But spoofing is appropriate when you participate in a public mailing list, where a group of people have a discussion by e-mail on a particular topic. It's like a newsgroup except that it runs via e-mail. These public discussions are often recorded on the Web and are fair game for spam address collectors. In Outlook, change the outgoing address using Tools, Services. Choose the Internet mail service and click on Properties. The settings look the same as they do for newsgroups. You must

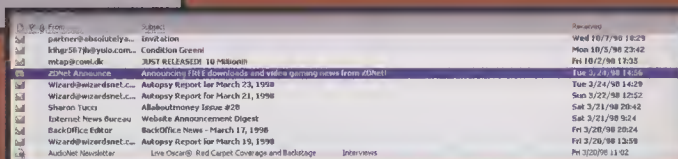
(continued on page 256)



1. Put your spoofed e-mail address in the heading and put an explanation in the message body so that recipients know they have to remove part of the address before replying.



2. Change the From address in your newsgroup reader to a fake address for any public messages you send out. A similar screen can change your outgoing address for e-mail too.



5. Don't choose automatic deletion—even the best automatic spam filters aren't perfect. Make a Junk E-mail folder for unwanted mail. Check it occasionally for messages put there in error.

Stop Spam (continued from page 255)

restart Outlook for these changes to take effect.

Joining one-way mailing lists or signing up for e-mail bulletins from reputable places will rarely, if ever, get you added to a spam list. Organizers of good e-mail bulletins have strict safeguards to prevent outsiders from getting the addresses of subscribers.

4. Ignore Spam

Some people get angry about spam and go to extraordinary lengths to complain and attempt to stop it. Unfortunately, just as we have to tolerate junk postal mail, some amount of spam is unavoidable.

Most spam messages have fake return addresses, so a simple reply doesn't go to an actual person. The complex header on an e-mail message is also usually faked so that it's difficult to tell where the message originated (some people try sending a complaint to the manager of the system that sent the message). Some messages offer to remove you from the list if you go to a certain Web page or send a particular message. But these removal offers never

seem to work—in fact, they often serve to confirm that your address is current, making you a target for even more unwanted e-mail.

The easiest and best way to deal with unwanted e-mail is to ignore it and delete it immediately. Responding to spam in any way just encourages more spam. In the long run, spam merchants won't survive if we all ignore them, their businesses, and their products. Most reputable companies won't use junk e-mail advertising. Often the spam is for X-rated sites, questionable medical cures, bogus business opportunities (usually pyramid schemes of some sort), and get-rich-quick scams. In other words, you're likely to get spam from the sort of business or about the sort of product you should avoid. Even if a spam message looks enticing, ignore it. The fact that it's using spam to advertise is usually a sign of a less than reputable organization.

5. Move Spam to Junk E-mail Folder

If you get a lot of e-mail, you'll want to sort and

manage your incoming mail. Clearing out spam is at the top of that agenda. Most e-mail readers have junk e-mail filters or rules that let you delete or move anything that looks like spam. The filters aren't perfect, so instead of automatically deleting messages, move them to a Junk E-mail folder. Check the folder occasionally for any messages that may have been junked in error.

In Outlook 98, activate the supplied junk e-mail filter from Tools, Organize, Junk E-mail.

6. Flag Spam There are options for handling general spam and spam with adult content. You can choose to flag or move anything that's detected by your filters. Flagging (coloring) spam makes the messages less obtrusive and lets you delete them personally. You can also move the unwanted messages to any folder.

Some Internet providers or e-mail services offer spam detection and removal services. They maintain a list of known offenders or messages and automatically remove messages before

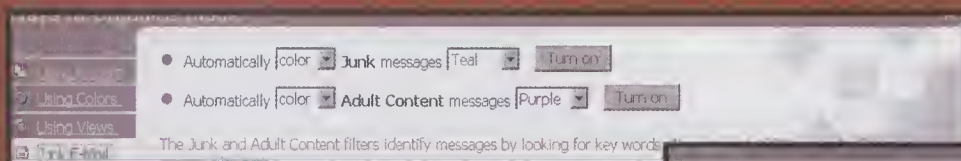
they are delivered to you. This is a handy option if you trust their detection methods not to remove messages you may want.

7. Refine Rules or Filters

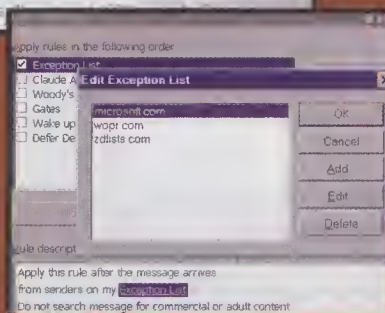
The list of rules most e-mail programs use for spam detection is complex and imperfect. Look for the file called FILTERS.TXT in the /MICROSOFT OFFICE/ OFFICE folder to read the criteria that Outlook applies. Alas, some rules also delete messages you want to see. For example, one rule will mark as junk mail any message from an address starting with sales@, which is often used by reputable companies for their sales office. Make sure you double-check any e-mail marked as junk and set exceptions that suit you.

You can enter exceptions, such as e-mail addresses or domains, that you don't want considered spam regardless of content.

Peter Deegan has worked with Contributing Editor Woody Leonhard for many years. He is the editor of Woody's Windows Watch (WWW), a free electronic newsletter that covers topics like the ones you see here. Subscribe to WWW by sending a blank message to www@woopr.com. Edited by Liesl La Grange Noble.



6. Flag spam with a special color or move it from your In-box to another folder. In Outlook 98's Junk E-mail filter, choose the settings you want for Junk and Adult Content spam, then press the Turn On button.



7. To set exceptions to the junk e-mail rules in Outlook 98 (Internet Mail Only version), choose Tools, Rules Wizard, and in the rules list click on Exception List. In the rule-description box at the bottom also click on Exception List.

TAKE YOUR QUEUE

5

*Easy steps to make you a
network printing star*



a **F**ive-step program guaranteed

to improve your network printing

Step 1: Taking stock.

Do your end-users complain about how tough it is to get access to the network? Do you wish you had more staff and resources to help them? Help is out there, but it may be different than you think. First, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you have an increasing number of remote users?
- Is it tougher for you to legislate their buying patterns, particularly for the "small stuff" like printers?
- Do you find yourself dictating printer resources to your users, rather than having the printing resource match the need?
- As a result, does it take more staff time than you'd like to connect peripherals to the network?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, there's a better way. A way that allows you to give users whatever printing resources they need. When they need them. Without your losing control of the situation.

Step 2: Out with the old.

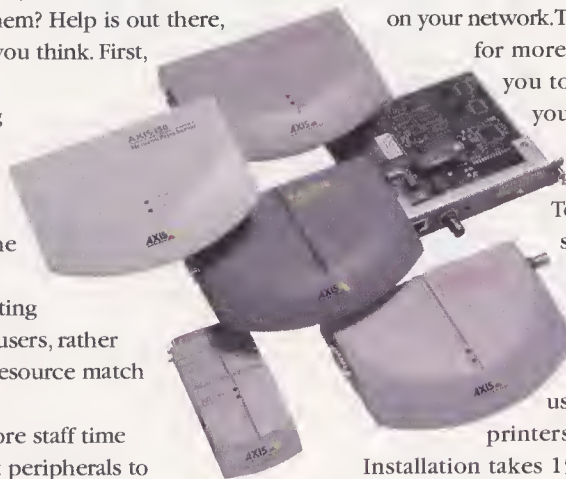
You would probably employ a PC or file server as the solution to the problem in Step 1. While this approach is powerful for sharing data, it doesn't hold up well for sharing peripherals.

PCs and file servers weren't designed for the task of attaching peripherals such as printers to the network. They are general-purpose machines that don't scale well. They are too expensive to administer for the task at hand. They're vulnerable as a single point-of-failure and have to be taken offline to add or remove functionality. You do the work to ensure they're compatible with multiple printers from multiple vendors.

No wonder vast numbers of end-users complain about not being able to print their documents on the network printers they prefer. It's time to look at a better solution.

Step 3: In with the new.

Axis' proven, market-leading print servers give your printers the intelligence to act as independent servers on your network. This frees your PCs or file servers for more important tasks and allows you to place your printers where you want them.



Based on Axis' ThinServer™ Technology, Axis print servers support 28 protocols, 13 operating systems, and the "who's who" of printers. Which means you don't have to think about which users you can connect to what printers. And they'll get there fast.

Installation takes 15 minutes, and print jobs will fly through the queue with throughput of up to 500 Kbps.

Printer companies such as Xerox, Canon, Epson and Ricoh understand the power of ThinServer Technology, which is why they've formed partnerships with Axis to enhance the networkability of their products.

The industry's most elegant solution, ThinServer Technology is built into all Axis products including print servers, network attached storage and Web cameras. It combines major operating system protocols, Web-based management and scalable RISC hardware in a miniature, self-contained design.

Step 4: Give yourself a raise.

Your organization can achieve significant cost savings using Axis print servers. Let's say you need to add 10 more printers to your Chicago office. A conventional approach would require approximately five PCs or file servers to provide network connectivity (figuring one PC for every two peripherals).

Out with the old: \$2,000 per server or PC X 5 = \$10,000.
In with the new: \$200 per print server or PC X 5 = \$1,000.



You should save more if you include costs for PC or file server installation, downtime and licensing at a rate of approximately two hours per server.

With Axis print servers, installation time is cut from hours to minutes — roughly 15 for each Axis ThinServer device added. And you'll see these savings in hard dollars and man-hours — every time you expand or change network configuration, regardless of the size or site of your operation.

One Axis customer, The Chinnet Company, estimates that for every AXIS 570 print server installed, the company has spared itself system costs of up to \$1,000 as well as up to \$400 in cabling and \$1,400 in printer costs. Subtracting the price of the AXIS 570, Chinnet's total savings for every AXIS 570 installed is as high as \$1,900.

Step 5: Turn it on.

Axis print servers deliver the speed, ease of use, and upgradeability you need to get the most out of today's high-quality printers — and tomorrow's.

Axis print servers support major network platforms, including NetWare, Windows, UNIX, Apple EtherTalk, OS/2, LANtastic, LAN Manager/Server and IBM SNA. They are easy to use, thanks to Axis' NetPilot™ management software, and can be managed from any standard Web browser.

Axis print servers combine high performance and great flexibility with ease of use, so they contribute to lower network costs by saving administrative time and effort and by extending the life of your products.



http://ads.zdnet.com/micro/axis/print_servers/

AXIS Servers Power Research Company

Each year, Gale Research publishes hundreds of reference books and CDs as well as Internet and online products serving the needs of libraries, students, consumers and business people. The firm gives high priority to ensuring that its own information technology resources are both up-to-date and highly accessible.

According to Jim Kenyon, director of technical infrastructure at Gale, "It just didn't make sense for us to invest in color printers if we couldn't make them easily accessible" to

Gale's mix of PCs running Windows, Macintosh systems and UNIX machines.



With responsibility for Gale's voice and data networks, Kenyon's team needed a fast, easy way to make newly-purchased Canon Bubblejet printers accessible to everyone on the network. The solution: Axis Communications' PrintPoint 140 BJC print servers.

"One of the greatest things about the Axis solution is that it worked right out of the box," says Kenyon, whose previous experience integrating print servers taught him that getting print servers installed and working could take as long as three days. But because Axis print servers come preconfigured with step-by-step documentation, installation took no more than five minutes.

"They were true plug-and-play," Kenyon reports.

“BETTER”

- end user

“FASTER”

- it manager

“CHEAPER”

- chief financial officer

“GUARANTEED”

- axis communications

It's no wonder Axis is an industry leader in network printing.

Axis has a print server that's made for you. With 28 protocols, 13 operating systems and throughput of 500 Kbps, Axis print servers have your printers on the network in minutes. Whether multi-port or single-port, Ethernet or Token Ring, Axis print servers are your high-performance solution for workgroup LANs to corporate enterprise networks. Axis' 32-bit RISC processor is custom-designed to get your data on and off the network fast! And Axis' management capabilities allow you to effortlessly perform software upgrades over the network from a central location.

Share your printers like never before. Learn more about Axis print servers and how they can simplify your business. **Visit our website today** to take advantage of special promotions.

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COMMUNICATIONS



Canon's BJC Bubblejet Printer
with the AXIS PrintPoint
140 BJC Print Server

Project Scheduling Made Easy!

DON'T TELL MY BOSS

I'm not a project management expert, but everyone thinks I am.

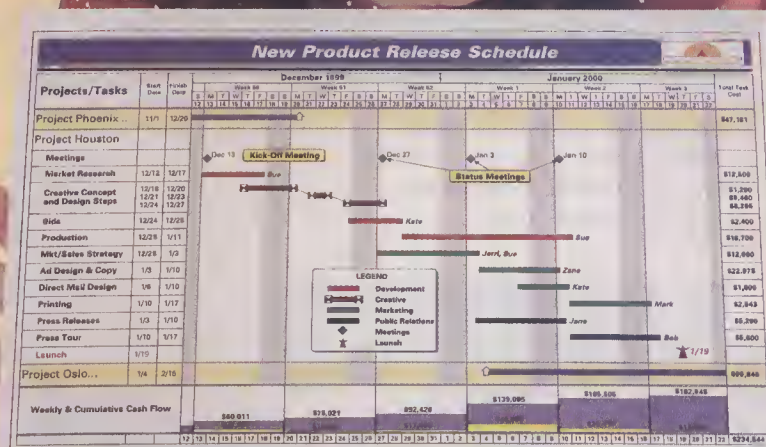
Most of my time is spent completing tasks, so I need a scheduling tool that's easy, fast, and flexible.

FastTrack Schedule 6.0 fits the bill. It keeps me organized and in control displaying all my project details in rich, colorful timelines. FastTrack Schedule provides just the right amount of power because it's more sophisticated than day-planners, but *easier to use and half the price of traditional, high-end project managers*. In a single schedule, I can outline multiple projects, make assignments, track cash flows, set-up dependencies—even add graphics like our company logo.

The presentation-quality schedules clearly illustrate project objectives and deadlines keeping team members and clients informed and up-to-date. Coworkers update their tasks across our Intranet, collaborate remotely, or use a FastSteps™ script to automatically export updated schedules directly to our client's web site.

Whether I use it once a week or every day, FastTrack Schedule makes project scheduling easy.

- NEW**
Version 6.0
Time Saver!
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 - ExpressDate™ Pop-up Calendar
 - Real-Time Internet Collaboration
 - FastSteps™ Scripting
 - Histograms



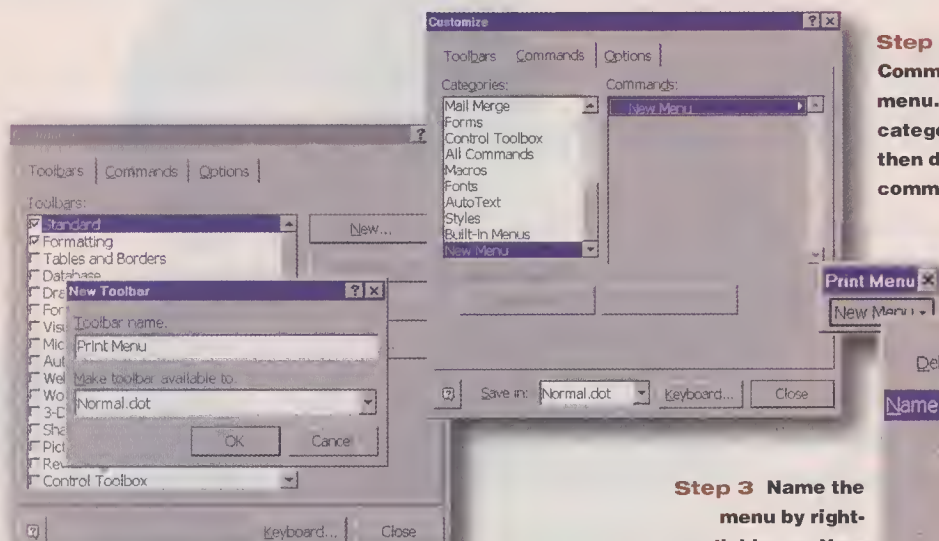
By Peter Deegan

For more Office tips and tricks, head to
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One-Button Custom Printing

Ever wish you could fit more buttons on your Microsoft Word 97 toolbar?

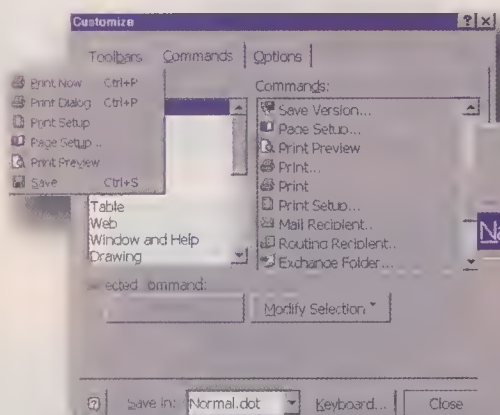
Follow these simple steps to put a customized Print menu on your toolbar. Use the same technique to make your own toolbar menus for other groups of Word commands.



Step 2 Select the **Commands** tab to create the menu. Scroll down the list of categories to **New Menu**, then drag the **New Menu** command to the toolbar.

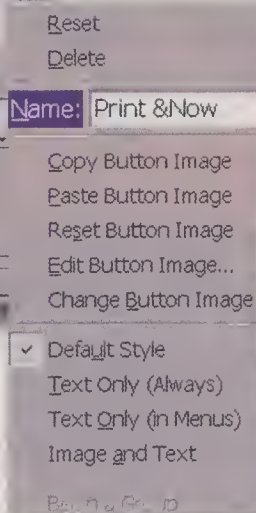
Step 1 Create a new toolbar for your menu. Choose **Tools, Customize, Toolbars, New**. Name the new toolbar **Print Menu** and make the toolbar available to **Normal.dot**.

Step 3 Name the menu by right-clicking on **New Menu** and entering the name in the **Name** field. Keep the **Customize** dialog box open throughout the remaining steps.

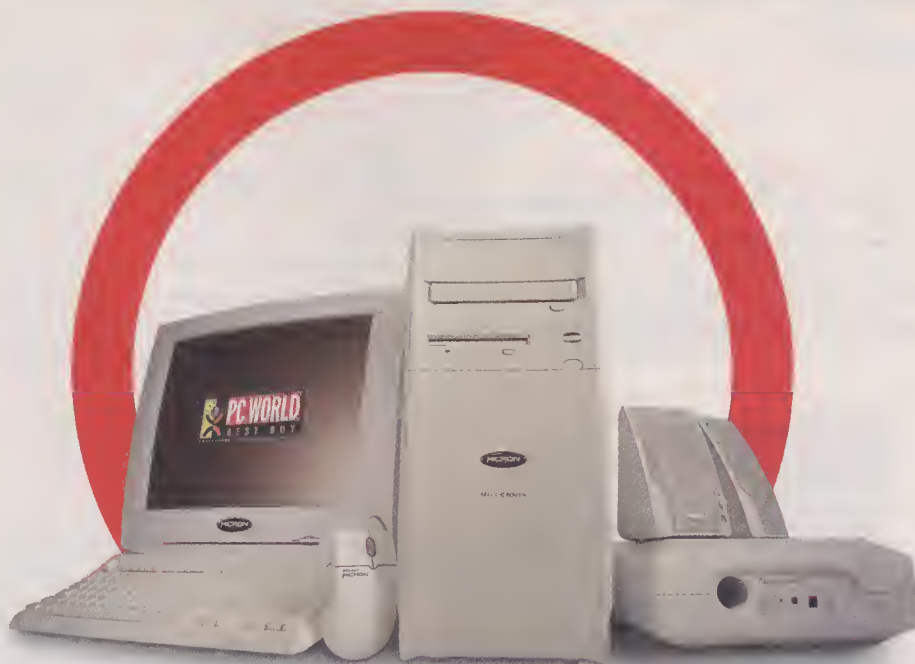


Step 4 Drag new buttons onto the menu. Drag buttons from the **Commands** list or from existing toolbars (hold down the **Ctrl** key to copy existing buttons).

Step 5 Right-click on any button to rename it. Consider changing the two **Print** options to **Print Now** and **Print Options** for clarity. For a shortcut key, type an ampersand (&) in the name before the letter.



Step 6 Close the **Customize** dialog box when you've finished making the new toolbar. Drag it into position on your Word 97 toolbar.



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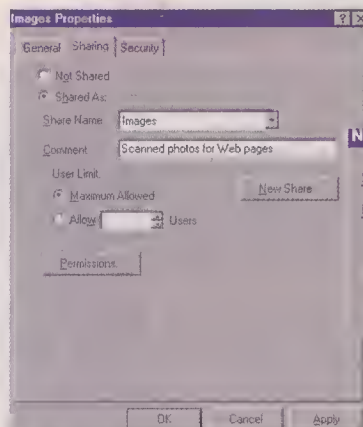
By Ed Bott

For more Windows NT and Win98 news,
head to www.pccomputing.com/edbott

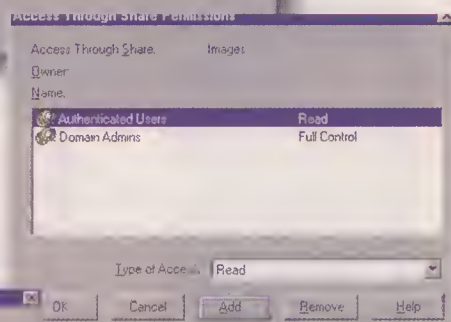
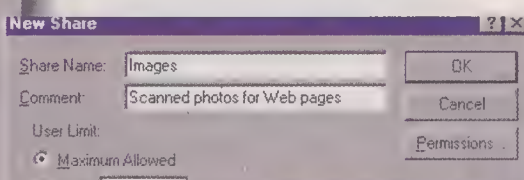
Share NT Drives and Folders

Use NT's file-sharing features to give individuals and groups of users access to shared files, folders, and drives over the network. If a drive uses the FAT format, the share permissions control access to all objects in the shared drive or folder on an all-or-nothing basis. On an NTFS drive you can fine-tune permissions, file by file.

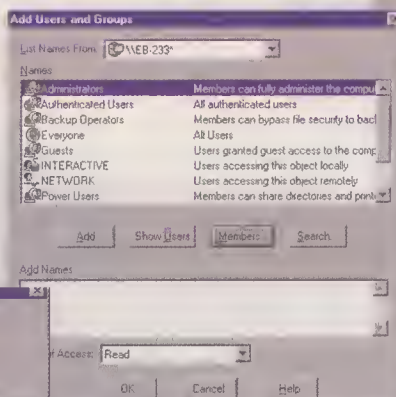
Step 1 Right-click on the folder or drive icon and choose **Sharing**. Give the new share a name of 15 or fewer characters, with no spaces; the default is the drive letter or folder name.



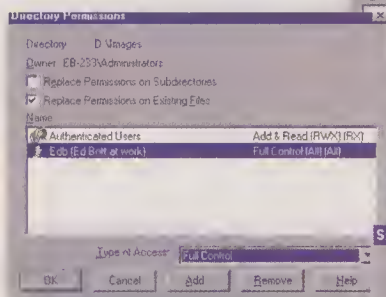
Step 1A If you choose a drive icon, you'll see the default share. This share is reserved for system use. Click on the **New Share** button to create a new share.



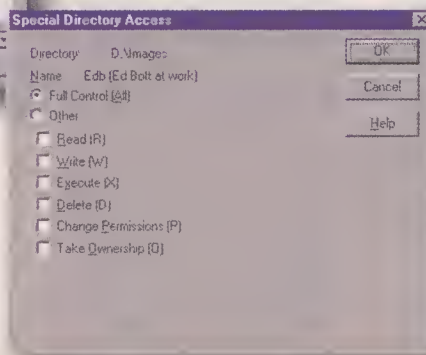
Step 3 Click on **Add** to display users and groups. Use the drop-down list at the top to choose between local and domain accounts. Select each group or user, then click on the **Add** button and choose **Permissions** from the **Type of Access** list.



Step 2 Click on **Permissions** to assign rights to groups and individuals. By default, the group called **Everyone** has full access to the share you created. That's OK on an NTFS drive, but not if the shared folder is on a FAT drive and contains sensitive files.



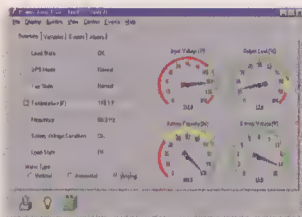
Step 4 On an NTFS drive, right-click, choose **Properties**, click on the **Security** tab, and click on the **Permissions** button to set user rights for all files in the folder, or even for individual files.



Step 5 Choose **Special Directory Access** or **Special File Access** from the **Type of Access** drop-down list to display this dialog box. Check the exact set of permissions you want to grant.

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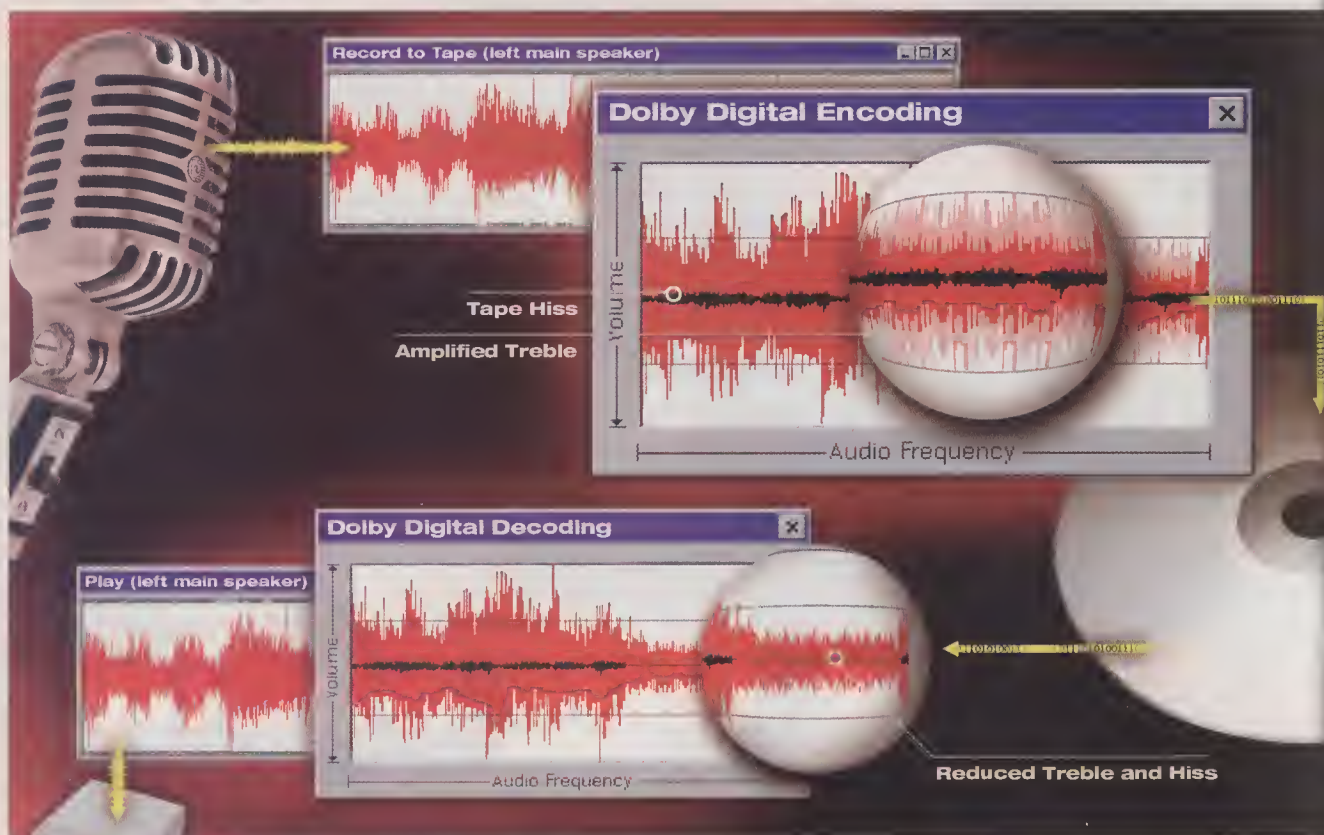
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By Ron White

Illustrations by Timothy Edward Downs

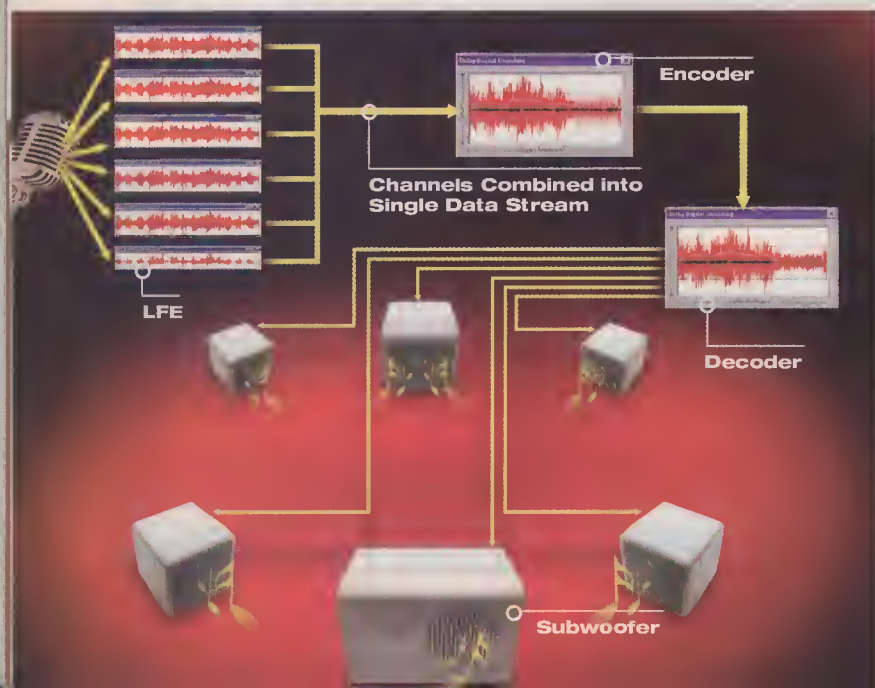
Dolby Digital

Everything is better when it's digital—especially PC audio. Dolby Digital, or AC-3, reduces the hiss introduced by audiotape, a sound present even on digital CDs. Dolby Digital also provides enough data to run up to six speakers on separate channels. It achieves this using data compression based on how people perceive sound, packing ten times more information than standard audio.



Noise Reduction Dolby encodes sounds so that soft treble, or high-frequency, sounds are louder. During recording, magnetic tape generates a high-pitched hiss. By increasing the volume of passages only where hiss is more likely to be noticed, Dolby overshadows the hiss. When the Dolby recording is played back, high sounds are reduced to their original volume. Because the tape's hiss is in that same general pitch, the Dolby decoding reduces the hiss noise at the same time.

Multichannels Dolby compresses the sounds on up to six separate channels into a single data stream by discarding minor frequency and volume changes the ear can't hear. One channel—LFE, for low-frequency effect—carries only bass sounds used for explosions and similar effects. For full Dolby, the sound is decoded and fed to three front speakers and two rear surround speakers. The sixth channel goes to a nondirectional subwoofer, which also receives low-frequency sounds from the other five.



Ron White is the author of *How Computers Work, Fourth Edition*, published by Que (ISBN 078971728X); illustrations by Timothy Edward Downs.



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Excel Power Tips

Microsoft Excel 97's calculation bugs (you can fix most with a patch from Microsoft) may leave you wondering if your spreadsheets are correct. But the truth is that most errors in spreadsheets are self-inflicted. Common problems such as wrong formulas and incorrect data can turn the most factual-looking worksheet into fiction. Don't let it happen to you. Become a spreadsheet pro with these Excel tips.

Correct Numbers?

Make sure your data is correct and within reasonable values. Click on a cell, then choose Data, Validation to see a range of options for controlling what gets put into it. With these options turned on you'll see helpful messages when you enter data and warning messages when the numbers are out of range. A Stop error alert prevents you from entering invalid numbers, while a Warning or Information message tips you off to potential problems but lets you enter data.

Right Reference

Use absolute and relative cell references correctly, especially for cells that are copied. Absolute references—those using the

dollar sign (\$)—are for fixed cells that never change position. If you forget to put in the dollar sign, the absolute reference will change when you copy the cell, with potentially disastrous results.

Home on the Range

Use named ranges for referring to groups of cells wherever possible. Your formulas will make more sense if you see *AnnualSales* instead of *B3:B55*. Do not use the Natural Language naming feature in Excel 97; it doesn't work the same way as explicitly named ranges.

Cross-check

Wherever possible, use the IF statement to cross-check totals and calculations made in different ways. In a simple

cross-summed worksheet, double-check the horizontal and vertical additions in a grand total cell, and it will display an error message if they are wrong. For example, you might see "=*IF* (*HorizTotal* = *VertTotal*, *HorizTotal*, "ERROR - this doesn't add up!")".

Color-Code Cells

This is one of the coolest Excel 97 tricks, and it's gotten people out of trouble many times. You can color-code cells so that the background, font, or other attributes change when the values are out of expected ranges. The change in

appearance is easy to spot among all the numbers. Conditional formatting also shows empty cells and helps you compare cells. You can set up to three rules for any one cell. Conditional Formatting can highlight the highest and lowest values in a list using the *MAX()* or *MIN()* functions. For example, enter in Condition (Formula Is): *=<[CURRENT CELL]=MAX(MONTHLYSALES!LIST)* and the highest value in the list will have whatever special formatting you want. Try a green background and bold type, for example.

Use the High and Low

One expert trick for finding out if a set of formulas is correct is to put very low or high values into the data cells. The results should dramatically change in reaction to extreme values. If the results don't change as much as they should, there may be a problem.



By Woody Leonhard

For more answers, head to
www.pccomputing.com

E-Z REGISTRY TROUBLESHOOTING LOG

If you're running Outlook 98 (Internet Mail Only version) you'll occasionally need a detailed log of the links to your mail servers for troubleshooting. The POP/SMTP error messages from Outlook 98 are not very clear and are sometimes nonexistent—a log will help you find out what's happening. Here's how to get one.

Step 1 Before editing the Registry, make sure you understand the consequences of editing it and back it up. Close Outlook 98.

Step 2 Bring up the Registry editor by selecting Start, Run, then typing *regedit* and hitting Enter.

Step 3 Navigate to *HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\8.0\Outlook\Options\Mail*.

Step 4 If it does not already exist, create a new *DWORD* value named *Logging*. In the Value window, enter 1 to start logging. Enter 0 to stop logging. When you restart Outlook 98 it will create text files showing all attempts to send or receive mail. The logs are in the *C:\WINDOWS\TEMP\OUTLOOK* folder in files called *INETXP.TXT*, *POP3LOG.TXT*, and *SMTPLG.TXT*.

sneakernet (sne'ker net) an ancient practice of sharing files and printers via foot and floppies before the advent of Aviator Wireless Networking

Until recently, sharing files and printers between two or more personal computers involved jogging from one PC to another with a floppy disk in hand—helpful if you couldn't make your aerobics class, but otherwise not a very productive way to spend your time.

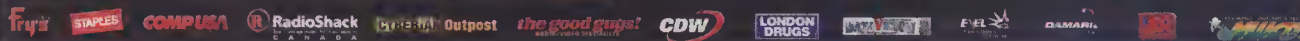
Fortunately, things have changed. Installing an Aviator Wireless Network in your home or small office is so simple that even most kids can do it. No wires to deal with, no confusing networking hardware to configure. Instead, just plug an Aviator Wireless Networking module into the parallel port on each of your computers, install the Aviator software, and start sharing files and printers. Unbelievably easy.

Aviator uses radio technology to transfer files and print jobs between your computers and operates between them at a distance of up to 125 feet, indoors or out. Aviator Wireless Networking also enables your home PC users to share a single modem and phone line so everyone can surf the Net, access email, or just chat with friends - all at the same time. And if you're a computer gaming fanatic, enjoy playing your favorite PC games in multi-player mode across an Aviator Wireless Network.

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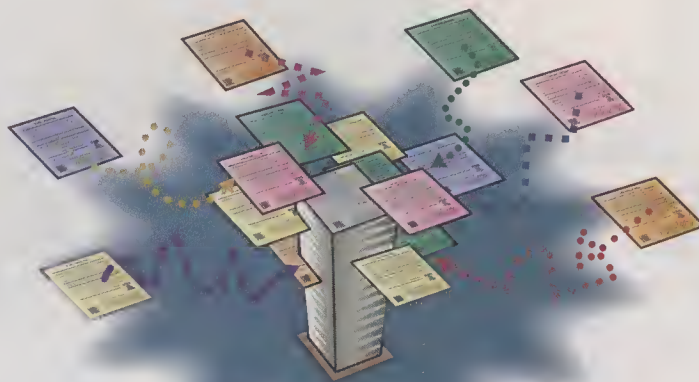
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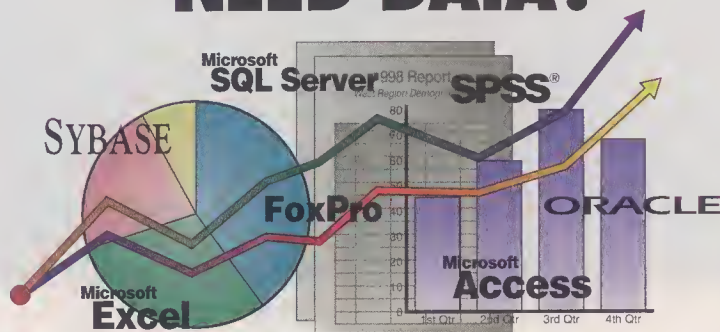
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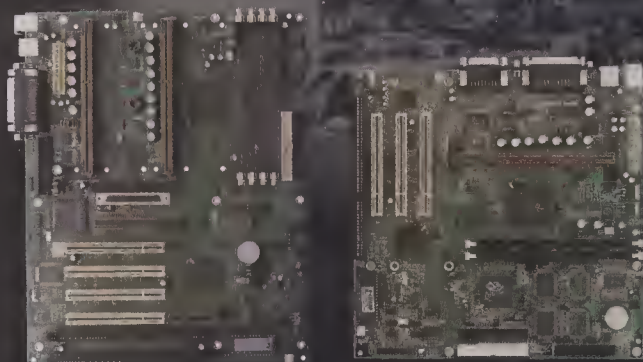
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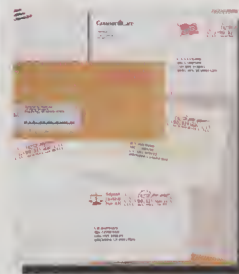
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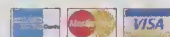
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Saves time and money—improves productivity

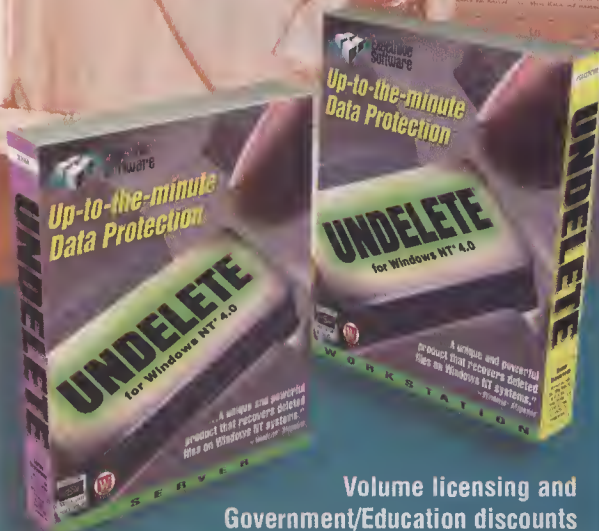
You won't find a system manager that hasn't experienced losing valuable data sometime, somewhere. Whether it's a CEO's speech, critical database information or company financials, the consequences can be almost unbearable. UNDELETE provides the only safe and reliable solution, built from the ground up for Windows NT 4.0, to give you instant access and file recovery with a just a few clicks of a mouse. Now, your safety net will be complete, while gaining the ability to recover files anywhere on the network—without leaving your desk—and without the hassle of having to spend hours hunting through backups.

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- **EMERGENCY UNDELETE™** (on CD) lets you recover files even if you haven't loaded the program yet, to prevent overwriting the data you just lost!

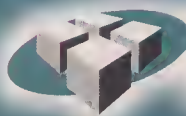
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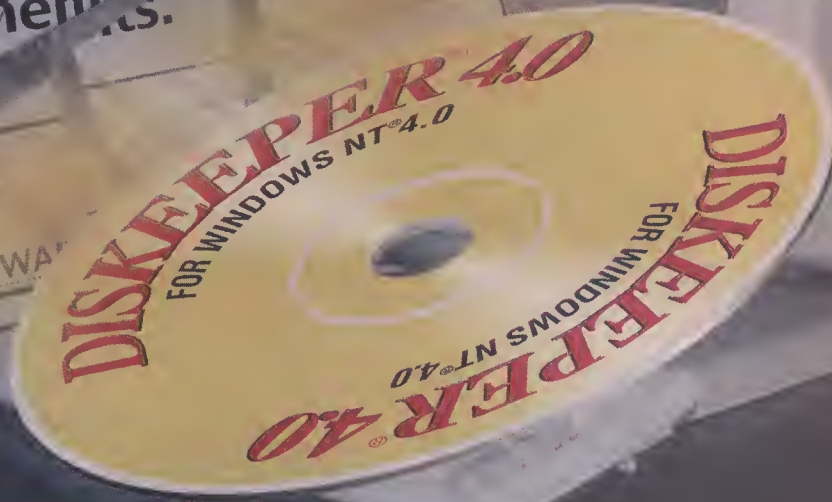
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Slow File Access



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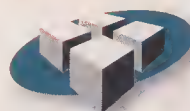
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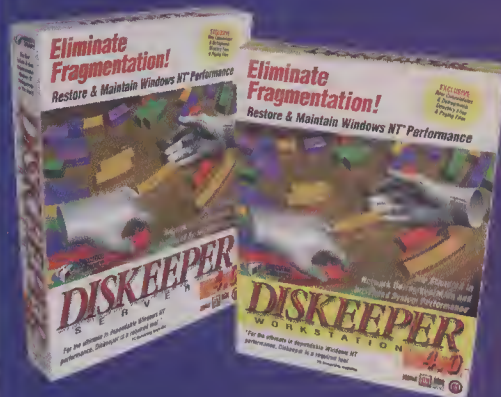
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— Microsoft Windows NT Server Resource Guide*



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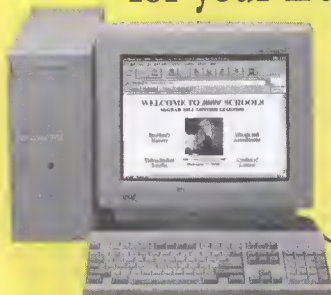
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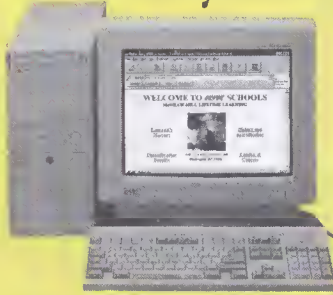
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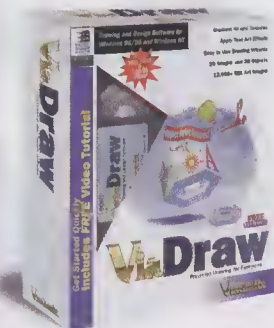


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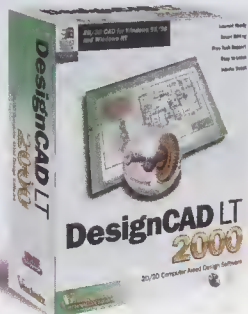
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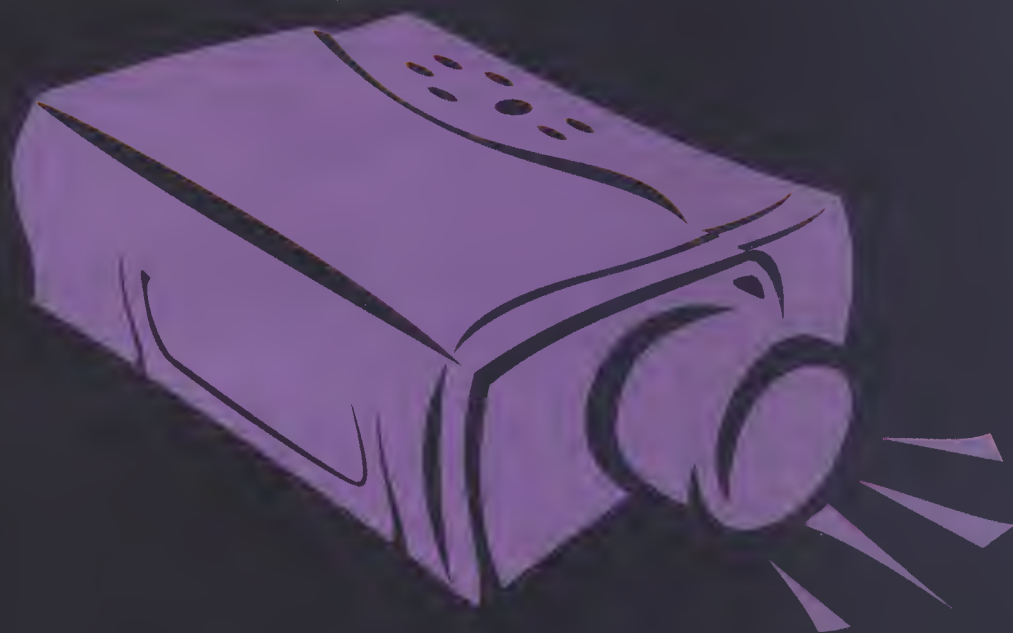
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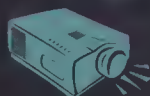
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#26786	1592MT	233MHz MMX*	32	3.2GB	20X	12.1" TFT	56K	\$1,979
Armada 1700 Series								
#33230	1700	PII 233MHz MMX*	32	4.0GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	\$2,299
#33235	1700	PII 266MHz MMX*	32	4.0GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	\$2,799
#35391	1700	PII 300MHz MMX*	32	5.0GB	24X	14.1" TFT	56K	\$3,499
New Armada 7800 Series								
#31072	7800	PII 266MHz MMX*	64	5.0GB	20X	13.3" TFT	33.6K	\$3,759
#31073	7800	PII 266MHz MMX*	64	5.0GB	20X	13.3" TFT	—	\$3,559
Armada 3500 Series								
#35380	3500	PII 266MHz MMX*	32	4.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	—	\$2,769
#35381	3500	PII 300MHz MMX*	64	6.4GB	—	13.3" TFT	—	\$3,659
Armada 6500 Series								
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#36312	Celeron 333MHz	64	6.4GB	32X	TD	Win95	\$1,269
#36296	PII 350MHz MMX*	64	4.3GB	—	TD	Win95	\$1,309
#36314	PII 400MHz MMX*	64	10.0GB	32X	TD	Win95	\$1,789
#36315	PII 450MHz MMX*	64	10.0GB	32X	TD	Win95	\$1,919
New Deskpro EN Series							
Order#	Pentium® Processor	RAM	HO	CO	Form Factor	System	Price
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#36286	Celeron 300MHz	32	3.2GB	32X	MT	Win95	\$1,249
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#36289	Celeron 333MHz	32	6.4GB	32X	MT	Win95	\$1,389
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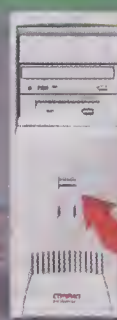
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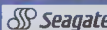
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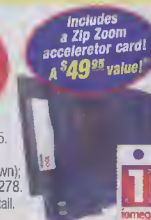


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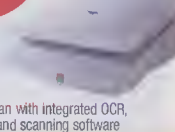


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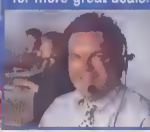
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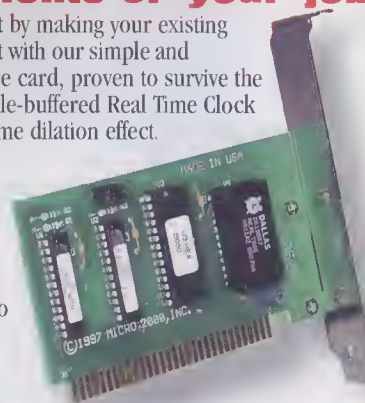
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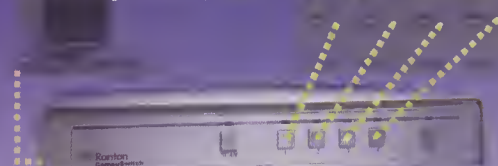
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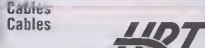
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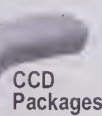
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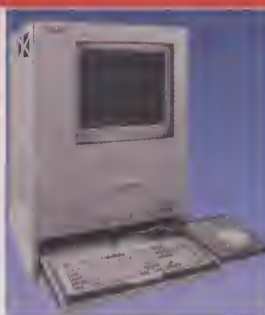
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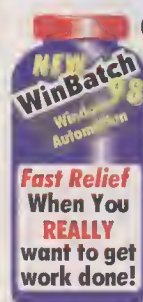
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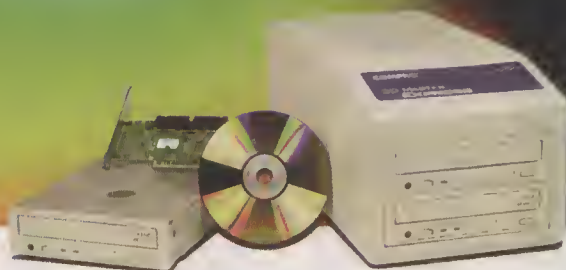


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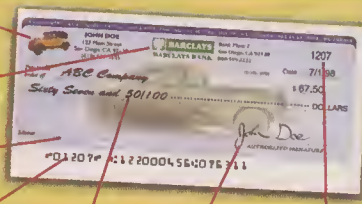
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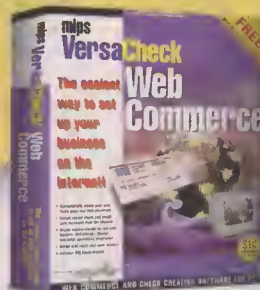
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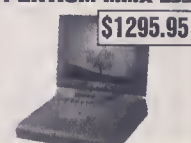
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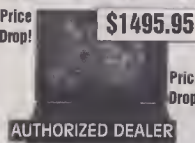
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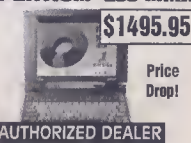
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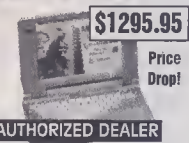
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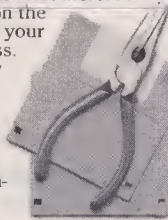
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Windows Dressing

All computer experts

agree: Screen savers are a waste. Because today's monitors don't suffer from phosphor burn, savers just waste valuable processing cycles. Well, tell the experts, those are *your* processing cycles, and you'll do whatever you want with them. And to get going, here's the cream of the screen saver crop.

Waltzing Me Fractals

★★★★★ A madman down in Australia has come up with not one but five fascinating screen savers: 3aline creates 3-D objects that hover about your screen. Seraline uses mathematics and random drawing effects to make an endless variety of images that could pass for modern art. And my favorite, Seractal, draws full-screen animated fractals, one after another, creating an entirely new one each time. (All these screen savers are particularly apt for anyone who lost it in the '70s). The program is fully functional for 14 days, then you can buy it for \$20. Seraline Screensavers

Enter the ChromaZone

★★★★★ ChromaZone has a lot of the same psychedelic pizzazz you'll find in the

quintet of screen savers from Down Under. Created by Steve Gibson, who knows more about computers than Peter Norton, the ChromaZone screen savers deliver 400 bizarro animated 3-D images that are much more fun to watch than a spreadsheet. The big difference from the Aussie savers is that ChromaZone gives you such fine control over the animations that you wind up fidgeting with them until you're fired. To get the fully editable version, which lets you create an infinite number of strange designs, you have to pay 20 bucks; you've wasted more than that on Cracker Jacks. ChromaZone

It's a Draw

★★★★★ There's nothing more relaxing than watching other people work. With the

PUT A CORKBOARD IN IT

★★★★★ Isn't there a law that says screen savers should be totally useless? If so, then **Corkboard Screen Saver** is illegal. It's a personal information manager for people who don't have much information to manage. The saver pops up as a bulletin board on which you can place clocks, alarms, to-do lists, photos of your pooch, sticky notes—the kind of stuff you'd put on a real bulletin board if you weren't too lazy to get off your butt. You can also post a phone dialer and, just for fun, a working lava lamp and those eyes that follow your cursor everywhere. There's enough variety in each of the items to create a bulletin board that says, "Moi!" And it's free. So get it before someone passes a law banning it. Corkboard Screen Saver



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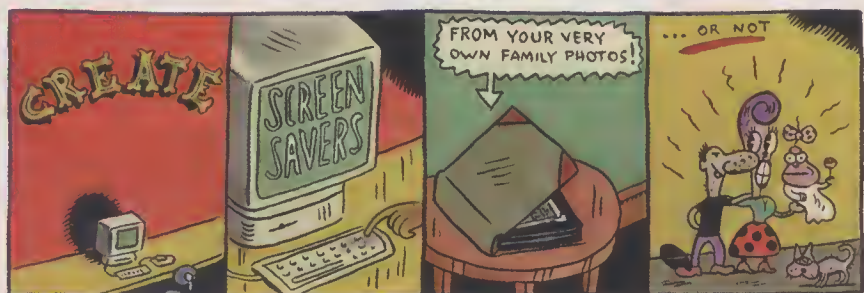
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DO IT YOURSELF

★★★★★ The old Kahuna has tried his best to scrounge around for the coolest, most unusual screen savers to be found on the Net. But I realize that for some of you it's not enough. If you want a screen saver that is indelibly yours and yours alone, do it yourself. There are a lot of programs to make your own screen savers, but the most versatile is A+ Screensaver Creator, which not only randomly displays your private collection of Pamela Anderson Lee JPEGs, but also plays your favorite WAV or MIDI sound files. Registration is \$15, but that's not much to declare the uniqueness that is you. A+ Screensaver Creator



TOUCH YOUR INNER SPACESHIP

★★★★★ **Operation: Inner Space** is a screen saver that wastes both your processor's time and your work time. It's actually a game that pops up when your computer senses you're not in much of a working mood. You'll immediately recognize it as a knock-off of the old *Asteroids* game, which turns out to be still fun to play. So what are you waiting for? Operation: Inner Space



Drawing Hand Screen Saver, you sit back and take it easy while a disembodied hand completes a drawing on your screen—stroke by stroke, smudge by smudge. It might be Marilyn Monroe or a lion or a landscape. The longer the saver stays onscreen, the more detailed the artistry. Download a new drawing every few weeks. And if you feel guilty watching others work, create your own artwork for the hand to draw. The only irritation: the roving nag screen that won't go

away until you pay the \$27 registration fee. Consider it an art commission. Drawing Hand Screen Saver

So Cube It's Cool

★★★★★ Irritated by that photo cube on Smith's desk showing all those no-neck brats, while the only photos you've got are of your parakeet and Granny Fennel? Well, your photos—no matter how mundane—will make Smith's wither into insignificance when you display them with the 3-D FotoCube

Screen Saver. Plaster up to six photos onto the cube, then watch it twirl and spin across your screen. With all that movement, you can probably get away with claiming that Granny is your new girlfriend.

3-D FotoCube Screen Saver

Dynamo

★★★★★ You could go to the trouble and expense of a frontal lobotomy. Or you could simply stare at the Electric screen saver for 15 minutes. Either way, you wind up with a brain that feels like it's been injected with Novocain. The patterns Electric creates are rushing abstractions that haven't been seen since the Big Bang.

Electric

From Hunger

★ Now, if you want a screen saver that is guaranteed to be unlike any other, download Hungarian Symbols. It alternately displays the Hungarian flag, a coin or some sort of seal, and what looks like an open book. I can only assume that these constitute the three symbols Hungary has been able to come up with. They're not particularly attractive, amusing, or informative. But if you want a screen saver absolutely no one else has,

including Hungarians, this is what you're looking for. Hungarian Symbols

Incredible Shrinking Desktop

★★★ It always seems like your Windows desktop isn't big enough to hold everything. With Magic Zoom, it's not just an illusion. When the screen saver kicks in, your desktop shrinks to about quarter-size and starts bouncing off the edges of the monitor. How cute.

Magic Zoom

Double Trouble

★★★★★ Are you a computer nerd *and* a chess player? You are? Could you possibly be more pathetic? You'll like ChessSaver, which during computer lag time displays moving pieces in one of ten classic chess games.

ChessSaver Screen Saver

DANCE, BABY, DANCE!

★★★★★ All right, I admit the dancing baby has become the No. 1 cliché you can display on a computer screen, which should count it out in the individuality department. But Boogie Baby Screen Saver II adds a touch I'll bet the person in the next cubicle doesn't have. This boogie baby dances with the likes of Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, and Gene Kelly (even more celebs in the background). And you can choose your own music from WAV, MIDI, CD-ROM, and MP3 files. It's worth it just to see Fred, Ginger, and Baby dance to "Stairway to Heaven." Boogie Baby Screen Saver II



By Ron White

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PC Computing, May '98



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PC World, September '98



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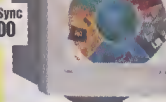
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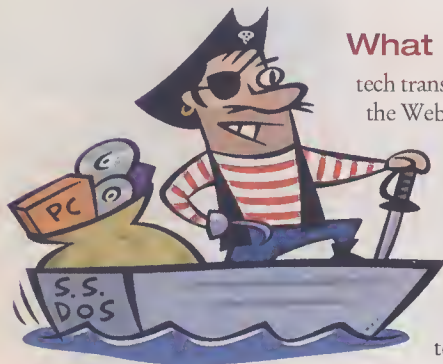


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CYP

Ever done something illicit at work using technology?

Yes, by a landslide. Sixty-nine percent of you admitted to using office technology for personal gain—from your PC to the Internet to the fax and copy machines. Not too surprising considering the results of a recent nationwide survey, Technology & Ethics in the Workplace, which found that 45 percent of respondents owned up to crossing the line when it came to using new technology in the workplace.



What did you do? The most common high-tech transgression in our poll (17 percent) was browsing the Web for fun on the company's dime. Other popular vices were playing computer games and borrowing software from work to install on your home PC. Uh, that's piracy, folks. The national ethics survey found that 13 percent of respondents admitted to software piracy, and 14 percent blamed errors they had made on technological glitches.

Were you caught—and what were the consequences?

Ha! You scoff at authority. And you also keep a watchful eye over your shoulder as you browse ESPN.com or photocopy your kid's fourth-grade report on humpback whales at work. According to our poll, 84 percent of you have never been caught in the act. Meanwhile, the few of you who have were mostly just embarrassed.



What's a fair punishment?

First of all, what's worthy of reproach? The national ethics survey found that most respondents agreed that playing games and using company e-mail for personal business are OK. On the flip side, most thought that software piracy, blaming an error on a computer glitch, and using office equipment to search for another job are bad form. In the way of punishment, our poll revealed that a majority of you favored fines or cutting off access to the misused equipment. A smaller percentage advocated termination—and even jail time. You better hope it wasn't your boss responding to our questions.



31%

That's how many of you won't get caught red-handed abusing technology at work. The rest of you? It's just one more bad habit to kick in the new year.

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- 32X Max^Δ Variable CD-RDM Drive
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- Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64V Sound Card
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- 3Com® USR V.90™ PCI Telephony WinModem
- 30-Day Trial Offer ConnectDirect™ Internet Access^o
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
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 Altec Lansing ACS-295 Speakers
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- NEW 17.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- NEW 19" (18.0" viewable, .26dp) Trinitron P990 Monitor
- NEW 16MB STB nVidia TNT 3D AGP Graphics Card
- 4.8X DVD-RDM Drive and Decoder Card
- Turtle Beach Montego A3D 64V Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-495 Dolby Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with One Cartridge
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- NEW 16MB STB nVidia TNT 3D AGP Graphics Card
- 4.8X DVD-RDM Drive and Decoder Card
- NEW Turtle Beach Montego II A3D 320V Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-495 Dolby Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with One Cartridge
- MS Works Suite 99 with Money 99 Basic
- Dell Comfort Key Keyboard
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 64MB SDRAM
 2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- 64MB SDRAM
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- 2X AGP 4MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
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- ★ Second Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery, add \$129.

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- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Internal 56K Capable[™] Data/Fax Modem
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- ★ Inspiron 7000 Port Replicator, add \$149.
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- ★ Modular Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive, add \$149.

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- 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Removable Combo 2X DVD-RDM Drive and 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI Rage Pro 3D Video
- Internal 56K Capable[™] Data/Fax Modem
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- 40X Max™ Variable CD-RDM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
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- 4.8X DVD-RDM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- MS Works Suite 99 with Money 99 Basic
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- ★ Upgrade to a 17" (16.0" viewable, .26dp) Trinitron 1000HS Monitor, add \$99.
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